



THE INDEPENDENT

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Britain achieves brain transplant breakthrough

A revolutionary technique which can repair damaged brain tissue, effectively a brain transplant, has been developed by a team of British scientists. It may help reverse some of the most tragic brain diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's. Sameeno Ahmad reveals one of the most exciting breakthroughs in medical science for years; and asks about the ethical issues it raises.

The new treatment, developed in London, is targeted not only at degenerative diseases but at the much more common conditions where brain cells die from lack of oxygen – such as strokes and heart attacks. Its economic effect, as well as its human impact, could be enormous: such disorders affect more than 5 million people in the US and UK alone, costing health services in both countries more than £60m a year. Up to now, neurological disorders of the brain have been practically impossible

to combat because brain cells, unlike normal cells, are not replaced by the body.

But the team of psychologists from the Institute of Psychiatry at London's Maudsley Hospital, led by Professor Jeffrey Gray, injected rats' brain-damaged from simulated heart attacks with embryonic mouse brain cells. Then the rats which had suffered from total amnesia and severe cognitive impairment recovered completely and were able to perform complex tasks, such as navigating through milky water to a platform to avoid drowning.

The team found that the injected brain cells – neuroepithelial stem cells or NSCs – migrated to various damaged sites in the rats' brains. There, they adopted the characteristics of the dead cells. The scientists' success led them to set up a company, ReNeuron, to sell their research. Experiments on humans are due to start in three years and a treatment could be available by early next century.

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Antarctica: the final holiday frontier



Ice-man cometh: Photographer Thomas J. Abercrombie after four hours' work at the IGY South Pole research station in 1957. On 17 September that year, a temperature of -102.1F was recorded, making it officially the coldest spot on earth. Yesterday, 40 years later, Australia proposed clos-

ing two of its three Antarctic research bases, and turning them into tourist centres. Until now, tourism has been discouraged because of fears for the delicate ecosystem. Now, scientists say expeditions may be allowed – under strict supervision. Full report, Page 9. Photograph: Paul A Siple

INSIDE TODAY

INTIMACIES/18

Having sex in public

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Suzanne Moore: why the Woodward fuss?

STYLE

How Levi's got a kick in the pants

TODAY'S NEWS

Baldness: finally the breakthrough?

After years of searching, a scientifically-proven cure for baldness may be near. Medical agencies in Britain and the United States are considering licensing a drug to stop male balding and even reverse it. Balding men who have been using the drug finasteride, marketed as Proscar, to treat enlarged prostate glands, found their hair growing back. In clinical trials following their discovery, nearly half of those treated with a milder form of Proscar had increases in hair growth, with around 100 hairs returning on every inch of balding scalp. Page 3

M&S to go global

Marks & Spencer has announced an aggressive plan for global expansion, investing £1.1bn over the next three years, and creating another 5,000 jobs in Britain. Here, it plans to open up to 20 more local stores specialising in its food ranges, plus specialist menswear, women's clothing and home furnishing stores. But it is to open more shops on the continent, and in the Far East and Middle East. Page 22

Anti-hunt MP must hide

The Labour MP who yesterday published his Bill to outlaw fox-hunting, has told *The Independent* that he was warned by the police to take his wife and three children out of their home for their own safety during a protest march against his measure. Mike Foster, the Worcester MP, told us he believes he has the support of 90 per cent of Labour MPs and some Tories too. But the pro-hunting Country-side Alliance attacked his Bill as unworkable and draconian, saying it would make anyone who owned a dog which hunted something liable to prosecution. Interview and story, Page 7

Royal Opera near crash

The Royal Opera House is teetering on the brink of insolvency, according to its chairman, Lord Chadlington. "If we can't get funds into the Opera House in a very short time, then the probability is that the House will become insolvent... It is going to be extremely difficult this week, maybe over the next ten days, to get ourselves through it, but I think we have a small opportunity to get through it," he said. His words come less than 24 hours after the Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, announced that the Royal Opera, the English National Opera and the Royal Ballet should all be housed under the same Covent Garden roof. Pages 3, 16

... and so is Gay Pride

The London Lesbian and Gay Pride festival has been thrown into doubt after its organising body, the Pride Trust, went into voluntary liquidation with debts of nearly £70,000. The festival claims to be the world's largest free music event and attracts over 250,000 people a year. Page 2

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COLUMN ONE

Gay Pride festival heads for financial fall

The future of the annual London Lesbian and Gay Pride festival, which claims to be the world's largest free music event, attracting more than a quarter of a million people, has been thrown into serious doubt by the voluntary liquidation of the festival's organiser, The Pride Trust.

The situation is not new. Pride has always lurched from financial crisis to crisis - the Pride Trust itself was set up five years ago after the previous organisers went bankrupt. Since then, the company, which relies heavily on volunteers, has managed to deal with accumulated losses by encouraging suppliers and sponsors to pay in advance for the following year. This year's event, which was over-budgeted by £80,000, inherited a rollover deficit of over £100,000 from last year.

"Pride needs a clean slate and the Trust is not prepared to defer the deficit for yet another year," said Rachel Smith, chairperson, who is likely to make an announcement next week. "In August our figures showed we had made enough money this year to clear the deficit. But a number of additional invoices have since come in, including things we were not prepared for, such as £40,000 in lost equipment, some higher than expected invoices, and some sponsors paying us less because things didn't go to plan."

Teddy Witherington, The Pride Trust's company secretary and festival producer, who left the organisation this summer to work in the United States, blames "power struggles within the Pride Trust", with "too few people making too many decisions", and the fact that the Trust has failed to raise new sponsorship deals over the past four months.

"Pride has become a monster that's got out of control," said Kim Lucas, the woman behind Summer Rites, set up two years ago as a commercially based alternative festival for gay Londoners. She blames this year's losses on a lack of contingency money set aside for "those extra expenses which always crop up".

Whoever is to blame for the current crisis, it is likely to bring to the surface a rift in the community based on different philosophical approaches to the event. Trust directors are hoping to find volunteers over the coming weeks to develop a new community-based, not-for-profit organisation which could oversee a scaled-down festival next year.

This approach is in line with Pride's history of community politics. It was born in 1972 with a march of 800 members of the then London Gay Liberation Front. Over the past few years, Pride has grown substantially year-on-year, becoming a commercial event attracting big-name pop stars and mainstream businesses such as United Airlines, Holsten Pils and Evian, who put up a total £200,000 in sponsorship this year.

"It has been run by well-intentioned amateurs, which perhaps was okay when it was small, but when you're talking about up to 500,000 people you've got to run it differently," says John Holding, who has acted as the Pride Trust's auditor since 1994. Mr Holding, and others within the community, believe it is time to develop a profit-based consortium of businesses to run the show. He warns: "The danger is that if we don't do it, then purely commercial interests will end up taking control."

— Caron Lipman

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PEOPLE



Spring steps down after 15 years as Labour chief

Duthlin's former foreign minister Dick Spring will today end days of speculation by standing down after 15 years as leader of Ireland's Labour Party.

A former rugby international, gaelic footballer, barrister, golfer and greyhound enthusiast, Mr Spring, 47, nicknamed "Groucho" for his dour demeanour, fuelled rumours by declining to confirm he would lead Labour into the next election.

Two damaging poll defeats accelerated the decision. June's general election saw Labour decimated; its 1992 peak of 33 Dail seats cut to just 17. Voters never forgave the party for a 1992 about-turn, when stinging criticism of Fianna Fail's standards was abruptly replaced by coalition with them.

Another factor was the recent death of Mr Spring's mother, Anna. For 50 years she was so dedicated to her first husband Dan and subsequently to her son's constituents (she was even summoned to deliver babies and lay out corpses) that a colleague observed:

"She made sure grass didn't grow in Kerry without Dan Spring knowing about it."

Mr Spring became party leader and a cabinet minister at 32 in 1981 barely 18 months after entering the Dail, modernising policy with a pragmatic social democracy, and purging Militant. Civil servants judged him one of the hardest-working ministers.

In 1993, after the IRA Warrington bomb, Mr Spring urged Irish people to wear white ribbons as a protest against the IRA. Addressing the child victims' parents, he wrote in *The Independent*, "The real Ireland walks in spirit behind the coffins of your sons."

He also forged a helpful, easy rapport with President Bill Clinton, assisted by one Irish aide's masterly golfing tips. By June, Mr Spring was burned out by relentless globe-trotting, European Union diplomacy in Ireland's 1996 presidency, the Northern Ireland peace process, domestic battles and long trips between Dublin and his Kerry seat. Overseas absences also sparked accusations that Labour was losing touch with worsening domestic crime and heroin problems.

Throughout, Labour strategist Fergus Finlay demanded utmost respect for his leader. Sean Dugan, Taoiseach Albert Reynolds' spokesman, quipped "I kind of like Spring, but he's touchy, and when he's not being touchy Fergus is touchy for him."

— Alan Murdoch

Rude words from Prodigy at the music awards



Given a combination of The Prodigy, Chris Evans, the Spice Girls and Oasis, the *Q Magazine* music awards could hardly have been anything but a PR man's dream yesterday. They did not disappoint.

The mix and match of sensation and hype included Chris Evans trying to bury the hatchet with the head of Radio One after being told to f*** off by The Prodigy (left) for not playing their album on his radio show, veteran producer Phil Spector insulting the Spice Girls, and Liam Gallagher encouraging the public to go out and get arrested like

his brother Liam did after the awards last year.

Elated by it all was the fact that Radiohead won album of the year for *OK Computer*. The Prodigy won best live act, and The Verve were beaten to best new act by the *Fun Lovin' Criminals*.

Phil Spector, who won a special award for his long career in the music industry, said that in America right-wing Christian groups claim the Spice Girl's performances are like pornographic movies. But he added: "A porno movie has got better music."

— Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

UPDATE

LIFESTYLE

£12m turns tenants into landlords

Almost 1,900 tenants of Scottish Homes in Dundee have become their own landlords in a £12m transfer deal which is set to benefit the area's economy, it was announced today.

The move comes after a secret ballot in April in which 94 per cent of local tenants gave their backing to the tenant-led Abertay Housing Association. The handing over has marked the end of the landlord role in the North-east of Scotland for the country's largest housing agency.

Over the next five years, the community-based group has plans to spend £5.5m on improvements to the houses and on major repairs. The 1,876 houses involved in the £1.8m transfer are located throughout the city. Ann Clark, a Scottish Homes board member, described the move as "a brilliant example of tenants taking control of their own future". The Royal Bank of Scotland is providing loan funding for the acquisition and improvements.

TRAVEL

Traffic jam grows into next century

Motorway congestion is getting worse by about 5 per cent annually, and in the past 12 months it grew by 5.1 per cent, according to independent data collected by Trafficmaster.

The worst-affected motorway was the M25, where on an average day almost 480,000 vehicles were delayed - particularly on the recently widened sections between junctions 15 and 16. The next worst-affected areas were the Midlands and the North-east. Since 1993, congestion has grown by almost 20 per cent, leading Trafficmaster, which maintains a network of sensors monitoring the average speed of traffic, to predict that congestion in the early part of the next century will be at the high end of government forecasts. The time lost due to heavy traffic equates to about 38 million man hours, involves 55 million vehicles and costs UK businesses roughly £1.8bn in resources and time.

— Charles Arthur, Science Editor

FINANCE

Looking for eco-friendly investment

Investors are becoming increasingly worried about where their money is invested, with the vast majority concerned that their investments should not benefit companies which are harming the world, a report said yesterday.

Friends Provident, the life and pension group, is trying to persuade more financial advisers to ask customers at the interview stage about their ethical views. A survey carried out by the mutual organisation revealed that half the number of investors did not know where their money was invested.

Of 992 adults who took part in the survey, 94 per cent said they wanted their investment to benefit companies which were helping rather than harming the world. Some 93 per cent said they would like to make a profit without anyone getting hurt in the process. Environmental damage and pollution, unnecessary exploitation of animals and exploitation of developing countries were areas that investors were keenest to avoid. Friends Provident stressed one of the potential barriers to ethical investment was a perception that an ethical policy would damage investment returns.

ESSAY COMPETITION FOR LAW STUDENTS

The Independent is sponsoring an essay competition for law students to win a free place at the College of Law. Entrants have to write an essay under the question "What are Law Schools For?". The winner will have all tuition fees for the course paid.

Last year's winner of the College of Law/Independent competition, Abdul Hoq Mohammed, gained a training contract at Lincoln's Inn based Towers and Hamills.

Entries, in not more than 1,500 words, should be sent to: College of Law Essay Competition, College of Law, Brabourne Manor, St Catherines, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 1HA. For more information contact the college marketing department on 01483 460350.

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Greece (drachmai)	445.19	Switzerland (francs)	2.30
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Ireland (pounds)	1.09	USA (\$)	1.63

Source: Thomas Cook

Rates for indication purposes only

WILD

life



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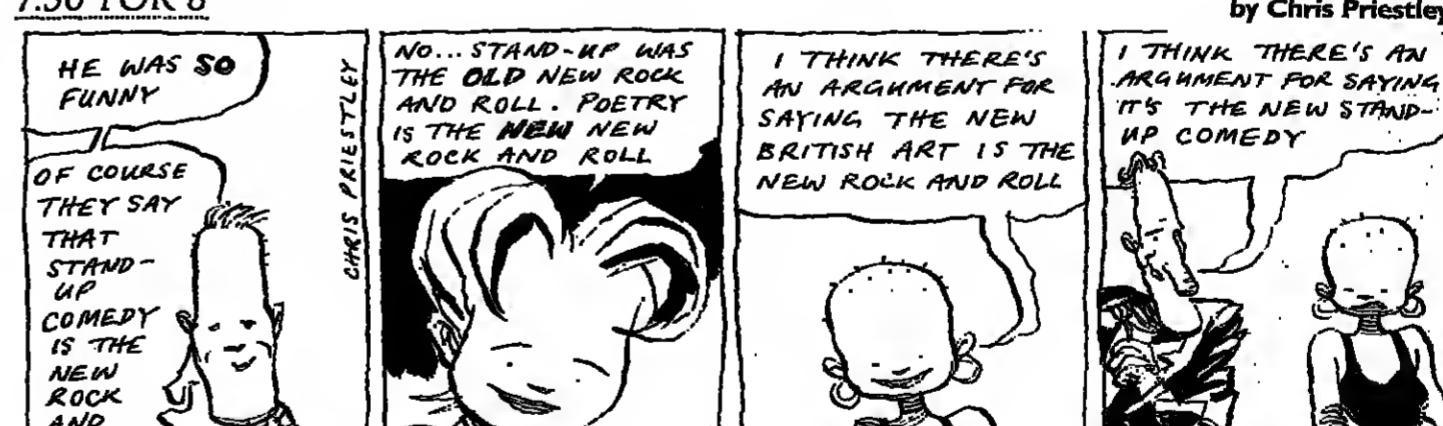
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3/LEADING STORIES

THE INDEPENDENT
WEDNESDAY
5 NOVEMBER 1997

Drug to reverse baldness may soon get British licence

It sounds like a dream come true for balding men - a drug which could be used to prevent hair loss and even stimulate regrowth. Medical agencies on both sides of the Atlantic are at present considering whether to licence finasteride to aid hair regrowth. But says Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, trichologists warn this is a 'step forward' rather than the answer.

When balding men took the prescription-only drug finasteride, marketed under the name Proscar for the treatment of enlarged prostate glands, they found that their hair started growing back.

Now both the Food and Drug Administration in the US and the Medicines Control Agency in Britain are considering whether to grant a licence for a milder form of the drug to be used specifically to treat hair loss. A decision is likely to be taken in Britain early next year.

At present, Proscar is only licensed for prostate problems but Merck Sharp & Dohme, who make the drug, have been carrying out clinical trials.

More than 1,500 men took part in Phase III trials. After a year, a panel of dermatologists

found 48 per cent of men treated with Propecia (a milder form of Proscar) had increases in hair growth compared with 7 per cent of men receiving a placebo.

Excessive hair loss stopped and there was regrowth of around 100 hairs in every inch of previously balding scalp. Self-assessment by the "patients" demonstrated significant increases in hair growth.

While almost all men experience a change in their hairline at puberty, around 25 per cent suffer "hairline retreat". The condition, which is hereditary, occurs when high levels of the male hormone testosterone are converted to a derivative, dihydrotestosterone (DHT).

High levels of DHT cause hair follicles to age prematurely and shrivel. Finasteride works by blocking an enzyme, 5-alpha-reductase, which converts testosterone to DHT.

Fred Morenberg, a 62-year-old divorcee, started taking Proscar for an enlarged prostate condition three years ago. He said after eight months he noticed his hair was becoming "more robust" and now to the untrained eye it looks as if he has a full head of hair.

Mark O'Donnell, 31, told BBC's *Face Value* programme that losing his hair at the age of 22 was every man's worst nightmare "It's no fun being 26 and looking 36," he said. Over six years, he spent £12,000 on different products. He learned about Proscar over the Internet and asked his GP to prescribe it for him. After two years, he

says he looks as if he is just beginning to lose his hair at the front as opposed to being entirely bald. "I was a nasty person when I was bald ... I was bitter and felt cheated ... They will have to take [the drug] out of my cold dead hands."

Although, reported side effects of the drug include reduced libido, impotence and lesser ejaculatory volume, Merck Sharp & Dohme claim adverse reactions are "infrequent" - with just 1.8 per cent of patients experiencing decreased libido.

A spokesman for the Institute of Trichologists said last night: "We don't really know the long term side-effects until it has been used for a long time ... I'm not sure that some things are worth taking a chance over in life."

But John Mason, chairman of the institute said the drug was "relatively free" of side-effects and added: "As far as these men are concerned, impotence or the other side-effects doesn't seem to worry them compared to their hair."

He added that the effects were usually only seen in men with early balding patterns rather than those who lost their hair later in life.

Susan Aldridge author of *Hair Loss - The Answers* said that within five years she expected to see more specific drugs on the market: "The medical profession is taking hair loss more seriously," she said. "This is a step forward but it's not the answer."

• *Face Value* is on BBC1 at 7pm tonight.



Hair tomorrow? New hope is at hand for men troubled by the 'Slaphead' image personified by the television actor Gregor Fisher's portrayal of the Baldy Man

Photograph: Daily Record

IN THE EYE TOMORROW

VIOLENCE WITH A HUMAN TOUCH



ROCK
The Stranglers in the Falklands
PLUS:
Jazz; the Spice Girls; Lisa Stansfield; and Gyorgy Ligeti, master of magic and wit

Royal Opera House on brink of bankruptcy

The crisis over Britain's national opera companies took yet another dramatic twist yesterday when the chairman of the Royal Opera House disclosed that it is on the brink of insolvency. David Lister, Arts News Editor, reports.

Lord Chardington told a House of Commons select committee that present debts of £4.7m could nearly double over the next two years.

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee was discussing, among other things, the shock proposal made on Monday by the Secretary of State, Chris Smith, that Britain's two national opera companies share a home in Covent Garden; that the Royal Opera House is re-

named Covent Garden and becomes a receiving house; and that the English National Opera's present home, the London Coliseum, ceases to be a national opera house.

But Lord Chardington's dramatic evidence cast doubt on whether the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet might even remain in operation unless emergency funding is found.

He said: "If we cannot get funds into the Opera House in

the very short term then the possibility is that the house could become insolvent. Unless we can find a solution on our own then the house will become insolvent." He said auditors had attended the last board meeting of the ROH, and the house now had to present balanced budgets to the Arts Council by next week. He added that he was talking to potential donors.

The chairman of the committee, Gerald Kaufman, asked if this meant the house could go into receivership.

Lord Chardington replied: "That is the conversation we are currently having. I believe there is a way through. I believe there is a small opportunity to get through it."

He said the accumulated losses were £4.7m to April 1997. Following poor ticket sales in temporary venues, estimates were for a further loss of up to £3m by April 1998, and still further losses in the 20 months up to the reopening of the house.

He added that donors had been ringing up yesterday saying they had given money to one kind of opera house and now discovered it was going to be another kind of opera house.

In his evidence, Chris Smith

stressed that his proposals were merely that, not definite decisions, and that he would await the report of Sir Richard Eyre's review committee in May.

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In Elton, you could just hear the crunch of dashed hopes

It had been an agonising wait, creeping from the moment Louise Woodward was found guilty last week until the arrival of Judge Hiller Zobel yesterday at the Boston, Massachusetts, court house. His decision not to decide on whether she should be freed yesterday did little to ease the pain. Esther Leach reports



Elton shows its support
Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Woodward's supporters in her home village of Elton, Cheshire, put a brave face on it, saying they had not been expecting an immediate decision.

But underfoot there was the faint crunching of dashed hopes. Earlier in the day the mood had been stoic, shot through with optimism. The women and children of Elton had chanted the 19-year-old air pair's innocence.

The streets are decked with yellow ribbons tied round lamp posts and trees. Posters declaring Woodward's innocence and demanding her release are taped to benches and doors.

Children missed school to cram into the Ringer Public House with their parents to watch the latest live broadcast of the hearing. Behind the giant screen set up by Sky Television is a support desk which is taking almost continuous telephone calls from all over

Britain donating cash to the Woodward appeal. Anne Wallace, taking the calls, said she was overwhelmed with the words of encouragement from strangers. "I came down here just to donate some money and found myself manning the phones. There is an overwhelming feeling of commitment to the cause and an unshakable faith in the innocence of Louise Woodward."

One campaigner, Hazel Mayamba-Kasonga, said the judge's decision today was exactly what she expected. She added: "We can wait as long as it takes. We can go on supporting Sue and Gary Woodward for as long as it takes. We are thinking of sending some of Louise's friends over to her to keep her company. There have been offers of help - homes for Sue and Gary to stay in while they are in Boston and also in this country."

"Our main priority is to get Louise home. All the support I got on the journey gave me an eerie feeling because it was so unanimous."



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HALIBORANGE

Boom in births for couples taking test-tube option

Test-tube births increased 25 per cent last year as success rates for the technique rose to their highest level. Jeremy Lawrence, Health Editor, reports on the booming demand for in-vitro fertilisation and the pressures it places on couples desperate for children.

The 20,000th test-tube birth was achieved in Britain last year as patients flocked in increasing numbers for the treatment. Clinics' success rates are to be published in a guide for patients next month.

Increasing numbers for the treatment that costs around £2,000 per attempt and still has a less than one-in-six chance of success.

Figures published yesterday by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority in its annual report show over 5,500 live births were achieved in the 15 months to last March from The technique, known as ICSI (Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection), was introduced four years ago and 1,500 babies have been born so far.

15 months to last March from almost 37,000 treatment cycles, a success rate of 15 per cent.

That rate, the highest yet, is 1.2 per cent up on the success

ment has been introduced for clinics offering the treatment to ensure high standards, the authority said.

Almost a third of births in

However, it is still well below the average rate of 25 per cent per month for couples conceiving naturally.

In 1995, the latest full year for which figures are available, 22,587 patients were treated, a six-fold increase compared with

almost a third of the 15,000 in the past 15 months were of twins, triplets or quadruplets, which carry an increased risk of complications and can impose emotional and financial pressure on the parents.

Mrs Deech said that the au-

When Steptoe and Edwards achieved the first successful birth in 1978 the world was shocked at the idea that life could be started in a test-tube. She said: "Multiple births can be the source of great stress

Ruth Deech, chairman of the authority which licenses the clinics, said: "In-vitro fertilization is legal in the UK, but it can be the source of great stress and anxiety for parents. People undergoing IVF treatment should be aware that, as the technique becomes more successful, so the risk of a multiple birth increases."

DAILY POEM

A Curse on My Former Bank Manager

by Adnan Mitchell

May your computer twitch every time it remembers money until the twitches mount and become a mechanical ache and may the ache increase until the tapes begin to scream and may the pus of data burst from its metal skin

*and just before the downpour of molten aluminium
may you be peering in front of your computer
and may you be saying to your favourite millionaire
yes it cost nine hundred thousand but it repays every penny*

and may the hundred-mile tape which records my debts spring out
like a supersonic two-dimensional boa-constrictor
and may it slip under your faultless collar and surround your hairless neck
and may it tighten and tighten until it has repaid everything I owe you

This week's poems celebrate the 65th birthday of Adrian Mitchell, the lyrical, radical conscience of British poetry for 40 years. They come from the new collection *Heart on the Left: Poems 1953-1984*, published by Bloodaxe Books at £9.95. "Among all the voices of the Court," says Ted Hughes, Adrian Mitchell is "a voice as welcome as Lear's Fool".

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5/HABITS

Most drug users are happy, successful people with a taste for the good life

Most young drug users are not stereotypical sad, lonely losers, according to a new study. Jason Bennett and Benjamin Todd examine the findings of a report that suggests the Government needs to rethink its drugs policy.

Many anti-drugs campaigns and education packages are aimed at the wrong people, often falsely stereotyping young substance-abusers as friendless junkies with no ambitions.

According to a survey of more than 850

people aged between 16 and 24, and 100 in-depth interviews, drug use is commonplace and consumers tend to be independent, lead active lives, and do not lack self-esteem.

The young people trusted and respected their families in much the same way as their non-drug-taking contemporaries, disapproved of "out of control" behaviour by so-called "problem" users or addicts, and were no more fatalistic than other teenagers.

They viewed drug-taking as a vital part of everyday living and were only slightly more rebellious than other young people.

The report did find a minority of prob-

lem users, who fulfilled the stereotypical *Transpo* image and took a mixture of heroin and methadone with other drugs.

According to recent reports, one quarter of people aged between 16 and 22 have taken drugs in the last three months. The number of young people experimenting with drugs has been rising rapidly in the past decade.

The most popular illegal drug by far is cannabis, followed by amphetamine, LSD and ecstasy. Only a tiny number have taken heroin or cocaine.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation-funded report, *The Substance of Youth*, which was carried out by Demos, the left-wing think-tank, concluded that there

was no single national drugs culture, but

different regional trends.

Unemployed recreational drug-users in a run-down district of Manchester viewed drugs as a substitute for a social life and a means of obtaining stimulation.

Most users in Kingston, south-west London, Brighton and Leeds, viewed illicit drugs as a form of relaxation, alongside alcohol.

A student at Kingston University said: "I smoke quite a bit of gear [cannabis] – it relaxes me. It's nice than alcohol because there's no hangover and it's a lot more relaxing."

Steve, 18, a first-year physics student, added: "I don't want to use anything ad-

dictive because if you are addicted you are not in control."

In an old mining village with high unemployment in South Yorkshire, drugs were considered an important part of the young people's social life.

"I get through the day mainly by being drugged-up," said John, 18.

There was evidence of young people dropping their habits as they reached their mid-20s, but in Brighton and Kingston, a number of older people continued. Diane, 39, a post-doctoral researcher in pharmacology, said: "I've been using heroin for 17 years ... Heroin's like a sexual buzz."

Some people did confirm the stereotype drug-user. Tez, 22, in Manchester, said:

"I'm sick of pumping heroin. My friend dying [of an overdose] made me take notice. Not that I'm stupid, but I needed a kick up the arse."

Perri 6, co-author of the report, said: "One of the things we have to avoid is a 'one size fits all' national policy."

He said the idea of an authoritarian "war" on drugs and youth culture was "hopelessly inappropriate".

Instead, young people need information about the risks, which could be provided at local level, possibly through drug action teams.

● The report is available at £13.45 from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Telephone 01904 629241.

Europe may impose ban on cigarette advertising

Backed by the UK, Eurocrats are finalising a directive which would ban most advertising of cigarettes throughout the European Union. The tobacco lobby claims the Government is deaf to the likely impact of such a ban. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, listens to the debate.

Advertising of cigarettes in Britain is under a twin threat. One is from the planned government White Paper and Bill, the other from a proposed EU directive. If approved by health ministers next month, the directive could ban not just newspaper and magazine adverts but tobacco sponsorship of sports and so-called below-the-line marketing – special offers to cigarette buyers.

The meeting of officials in Brussels yesterday to hammer out the EU directive takes on greater importance because, for the first time, Britain is supporting the measure. Although some countries – notably Germany, which is worried about losing Formula One motor racing, which relies on tobacco sponsorship – are less keen, a directive seems likely.

This has infuriated the tobacco lobby in Britain, which says the directive simply bypasses consultation and parliamentary scrutiny. The Tobacco Manufacturers Association has just sent its submissions on the White Paper – delayed until the New Year – and fears ministers, particularly the public health minister Tessa Jowell, will fail to understand its case.

Some of the TMA's main arguments are well-known: that their industry is worth £10bn a year in tax to the Treasury, that 10,000 UK jobs depend on it, and that it helps the balance of payments by £600m.

But it also points out that a ban on advertising will have two

effects, which will both have the reverse effect to what the Government intends – less smoking among the young.

They say the ban will make companies more price-sensitive, reducing the price of cigarettes and making them more accessible for teenagers. The industry believes smuggling of cheaper European cigarettes, already a steady flow, will become a flood – again meaning cheaper cigarettes with no tax benefits to the Treasury.

"Ministers just simply don't get it," said an industry source.

"We do at least understand how the cigarette market works and what the likely effects will be. Whatever the merits of its case, its failure to get its message to the Labour Government is almost entirely the industry's fault. A source admitted: "For 18 years we had been living under a comfortable regime with the Conservatives and singularly failed to realise where the next government was coming from. There are very few points of contact now." The fact that industry representatives were not invited to July's tobacco summit merely underlined its isolation.

Belatedly, some companies are trying to bring in new personnel who have closer links or understanding of how Labour works. One of their efforts is to highlight perceived differences between health ministers and treasury ministers over the loss of potential tobacco revenue: they believe Gordon Brown is becoming concerned at public spending implications.

They are also targeting the effects on jobs in places such as Bristol, Northern Ireland and the North-east and the potential sporting public backlash if Britain lost its Formula One grand prix, as motor-racing officials are believed to have warned Tony Blair. However, the industry's arguments are still failing to impress ministers.

"Our main concern is public health," said a spokesman for the Department of Health. "In every country where advertising has been banned, consumption has gone down."



Out of puff: The brand images of cigarettes portrayed through powerful advertising could soon be a thing of the past

Costs row could scupper action against tobacco firms

The tobacco industry is being accused of using its financial muscle to stop legal action by cancer victims in the United Kingdom.

If it succeeds, writes Michael Streeter, it will affect not just the current case, but the whole future of the much-vaunted no-win, no-fee procedure.

The fate of a long-running and high-profile case against Britain's two largest tobacco firms depends not on the evidence of the 43 plaintiffs and their debilitating conditions, but on a procedural technicality.

Judges in the Court of Appeal will be asked to rule on issues which could scupper the case before a single shred of medical evidence is heard.

The simple question, being posed by the tobacco firms Imperial and Gallaher is: should they win, who will pay their costs which could reach £20m?

The plaintiffs have been refused legal aid and the solicitors Leigh Day are taking the

case on a conditional, no-win, no-fee basis.

Clearly the individual lung cancer victims cannot afford such a bill – and lawyers for the tobacco firms are seeking details of just who will be liable, and whether Leigh Day is in effect funding the case itself. They could then claim that the plaintiffs' lawyers are equally liable for any costs.

All parties to the case are now bound by a gagging order, though before it was made the senior partner, Martin Day, said his firm could not go ahead with the case if it was forced to bear the costs.

In the circumstances it

would be very unlikely for any other legal firm to pick up the case.

However, the implications go wider than just the tobacco case. If the Court of Appeal rules that Leigh Day is responsible for any costs, it will undermine the Government's attempts to substitute legal aid cases with more conditional fee arrangements.

Ian Walker, vice-president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said the whole future of conditional fee arrangements (CFAs) were at stake. "If there is any suggestion that the plaintiff's solicitors can be personally liable for the defendants' costs it throws the

whole structure of CFAs out of the window," he said.

Peter McDonnell, a Duhlin solicitor who is bringing similar action against four cigarette companies in Ireland, is not surprised by the tobacco industry's tactics in London. "They hope that the costs will blow the case out of the water. That is their tactic, they have millions of pounds."

Mr McDonnell, who is bringing action against Gallaher (Duhlin) Ltd among others, said the industry was trying to "bankrupt" him, but unlike the British case, he was hoping for government money to fund the action.

Clive Bates, director of ASH, the anti-tobacco organisation, agreed that the issue of costs was a serious attempt by the industry to delay or even stop the legal action.

"They are trying to delay the time when evidence about lung cancer is heard. That's when their investors get nervous."

However, he believes that the case will eventually come to court on the main issues – some time in 1999: "I cannot see that procedural issues will be allowed to stop this."

A spokesman for Gallaher said that the company was bound by the gagging order and could not comment.

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Hackney challenges hit squad

Councillors in the north London borough of Hackney meet today to consider a report which urges them to defy the Government over proposals from its school-improvement hit squad.

As the council moved towards confrontation with the Government, Richard Painter, the squad's chairman, warned that he would call on ministers to intervene unless councillors agreed to its plans by next Thursday.

Tony Elliston, the council's chief executive, who wrote the report, said the team's plans would "do absolutely nothing whatsoever to raise standards in Hackney schools".

Gerry Ross, the leader of the Hackney New Labour group, which has split from the Labour Party, called Mr Painter a "twopenny-halfpenny dictator".

Ministers are believed to be working on ways of bringing the council into line if the rebellion goes ahead. The Secretary of State for Education has powers under the 1994 Education Act to issue directions to a local authority.

An education Bill to be published later this month will give the Government power to take over failing local education authorities but it will not be law until next spring.

The row exploded when Mr Elliston accused the improvement team of recreating an expensive, old-style management structure that had failed in the past.

At first, the team said the structure proposed by the council was "too trendy" and that it must appoint a director of education: the post has been unfilled for nearly two years.

The team was invited into the borough in September after inspectors said that the education service was in disarray.

Mr Elliston told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that the team's plans were "a totally unreconstructed piece of fifth-rate management opportunism". He added that the Government had no legal powers to stop the council rejecting the team's recommendations. A decision about whether to confront the Government will be taken at a full meeting of the council next week. No political party is in overall control. Official Labour Party councillors, the only group so far not to back the hit squad, are in a minority.

— Judith Judd, Education Editor

Paedophile defies tribunal's bid to make him testify

John Allen, a convicted child abuser who owned the Bryn Alyn Home in North Wales, at the centre of a tribunal into alleged abuse, has threatened to refuse to give evidence.

Roger Dobson reports on a paedophile's fight from behind bars to keep his name out of the public spotlight.

Allen, described as a central figure in the tribunal investigation into alleged abuse of children in care, has been subpoenaed to appear before the tribunal in North Wales, despite attempts by his lawyers this week to get the subpoena lifted.

A letter from his lawyers to the tribunal says: "Mr Allen recognises the tribunal has the power to issue a subpoena and to compel his evidence. He in-

structs us to advise in such circumstances he would, if brought to the tribunal, refuse to give evidence."

But lawyers for the tribunal have warned that if Allen, who was sentenced two years ago to six years for indecent assaults of boys in his care, and who is at present in Leeds Prison, refuses to answer all questions, he might face a contempt action.

Applying for the subpoena, Sir Ronald Waterhouse, "He has made it perfectly clear he does not wish to give evidence, he does not wish the publicity that would be attached upon it, so one really looks at what is to be gained."

He added: "It does seem... that Mr Allen is being required simply because the public perception is 'This is the man in charge who has been convicted, let's have some information out of him, and let's put it in the newspapers.'

"If, as a matter of law, he has

the right to remain silent so that he does not incriminate himself, then to go through the procedure of issuing a subpoena, bring him before the tribunal, for him to remain silent, is just a time-wasting and costly exercise."

But Gerard Elias QC, counsel for the tribunal, said: "If a witness chooses not to answer a question which plainly cannot incriminate him, then the tribunal has certain powers and we may be submitting that the tribunal should exercise those powers."

He added: "It is plain that he has relative evidence to give. We would submit that he is entitled to be questioned in just the same way as other alleged abusers and indeed convicted abusers who have been brought to this court and have been questioned."

"He was the owner of Bryn Alyn. There were scores — and are scores — of complaints from this home over the period of his ownership."



High note: The Dutch pianist Maarten Van Veen plays a Steinway decorated by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, which could fetch £800,000 at Christie's on Friday. Photograph: Rui Xavier

Car search in Diana inquiry

French police plan to interview 40,000 owners of Fiat Unos in an attempt to identify a second car possibly involved in the accident which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, in Paris two months ago.

The car owners, starting with those in the Paris area, will be invited to come to a police station to account for their movements on 31 August, the night the Mercedes carrying Diana's party crashed in a tunnel beneath the Place de l'Alma in central Paris.

A streak of white paint on the left wing of the Mercedes has been identified as coming from a Fiat Uno or one or two other vehicles. Pieces of yellow plastic found near the crash scene have been identified as coming from the rear indicator of a Uno. Forensic experts have

narrowed the identity of the possible second car to 40,000 Unos sold in France between 1983 and 1987.

Investigators refuse to say a second car was definitely involved in the accident. But the amount of police time and energy being invested in the search for a Uno suggests this theory is now regarded as, at the very least, extremely plausible.

Investigators believe the Mercedes, travelling at 90-100mph to escape press photographers, may have struck the Fiat a glancing blow just before entering the under-pass. It remains unclear what happened to the hypothetical Fiat after the accident. The driver, if identified, would face criminal charges for leaving the scene of a crash and failing to assist lives in danger. — John Lichfield, Paris

Vitamin care centre may be re-opened

Families of children formerly treated in the vitamin B12 unit at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, have been told they have two weeks to make new representations in a bid to get the centre re-opened.

The hospital has decided to review the evidence rather than run the risk of legal action which could have cost it up to £100,000.

The vitamin B12 unit, the only one in Britain, was run by Dr Ray Bhatt with charitable funding for 13 years until December 1995 when money ran out.

The hospital was asked to continue the work, which linked autism and other neuro-developmental disorders to a treatable vitamin B12 deficiency. The hospital questioned its value, saying Dr Bhatt had failed to submit it to proper scientific review.

— Louise Jury

Channel 4 news revamp

ITN's grip on Britain's commercial news broadcasts was under threat yesterday when Channel 4 started a total revamp of its 7pm evening news by asking independent production companies to suggest new ideas for the programme's format.

Channel 4, which has used the *News at Ten* producer ITN since it launched 15 years ago, says the presenter Jon Snow will stay with the show, but industry pundits were last night predicting a revolutionary new type of TV news.

Independent producers are expected to join forces to create a "stringer" network of regional journalists and news services, similar to those used by national newspapers.

Observers expect big independent producers such as Clark Television, which pro-

duces *Dispatches* for Channel 4, Merton Barracough Carey and Broadcast Communications to chase the contract. Also likely to bid for the programme is BSkyB, which tried unsuccessfully to wrest ITV's news contract from ITN last year. Another candidate could be the international news service Reuters.

Channel 4's review of its news comes as the BBC nears the end of a six-month review of its own news programmes.

Channel 5, which has received plaudits for its innovative evening news show, announced yesterday that it is moving its news from 8.30pm to 7pm to get a bigger audience and is launching a lunchtime news programme.

— Paul McCann,
Media Correspondent

Ex-clerk wins RSI payout

A former bank clerk who will never work again because of Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) has been awarded £155,000 compensation.

Michelle Mulligan, 43, began suffering from the upper limb disorder after her workload quadrupled when a new manager arrived in her department at the Midland Bank in Gillingham, Kent, five years ago. Despite complaining of pains to her wrists and shoulders, she said she was told to work through her lunch hour and start work earlier.

Mrs Mulligan retired on medical grounds two years ago and now has to pay for help with cooking and washing. The judgment for compensation at a London county court was originally for £175,000 but after an appeal last week by the bank, Mrs Mulligan has accepted £155,000.

Laser attack

A bus driver was badly injured when a ray from a laser pen was shone into his eyes as he drove a vehicle full of passengers. The victim was taken to hospital with a serious eye injury following the incident in Walsall, West Midlands.

Phil Bateman, a spokesman for the bus company, Travel West Midlands, yesterday called for a ban on the sale of the pens to children. "The consequences of this incident could have been absolutely horrendous," he said. A youth has been given police bail in connection with the incident.

Cell mate

The family of Lucille McLanahan, the British nurse sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years jail in Saudi Arabia for her part in the murder of an Australian colleague, plan to mark her 32nd birthday today with a message broadcast on the BBC World Service, which she listens to in the Saudi jail where she is held.

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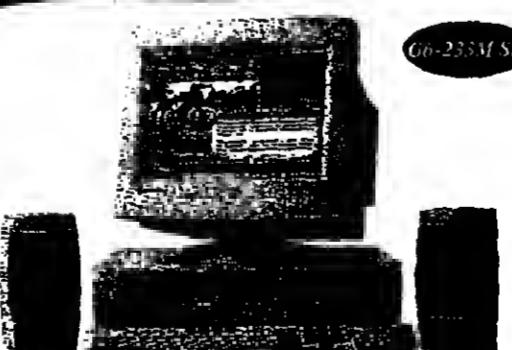
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7/ENVIRONMENT NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT
WEDNESDAY
5 NOVEMBER 1997

Death sentence hangs over MP's anti-foxhunt Bill

Packs of hunting dogs could be seized by the courts under the Bill to ban fox-hunting which was published yesterday. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, speaks to the sponsor of the anti-foxhunting Bill about the death threats he has received, and the threat to kill the Bill by his own government.

Mike Foster, the Labour MP for Worcester, yesterday said that he had been warned by the police to take his wife and three children out of their home for their own safety during a protest march in the city against his Bill to ban foxhunting.

The National Front had promised to be involved in a protest march and the police advised my family to move out of the house. Clearly those circumstances are extremely difficult. It is not easy when you are in London doing your job knowing your family's life is being disrupted," he said.

The Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, published yesterday, has raised the threat of violence from extremists on both sides. Mr Foster urged the "sabers" not to carry out their threats of violence, if the Bill is killed in Parliament.

The MP has denied a charge of personal hypocrisy because he goes fishing. Yesterday he defended the Government for failing to provide time for the Bill to reach the statute book, in spite of promising a free vote on banning foxhunting in its election manifesto.

Tony Blair said on 9 July in the Commons that he supported the Bill, but Mr Foster said he had no assurance from the Prime Minister that he would be in the Commons for the second reading on 28 November.

"I don't know what the Prime Minister's diary commitments are. It would be unfair to expect every MP to turn up on that Friday," said Mr Foster.

UK firms lured with £10m to wheel out car of the future

British industry was yesterday challenged to invent the car of the future, with up to £10m of taxpayers' money to help them.

Even though there may be no UK-owned mass-production car makers any more, both the Government and the motor industry believe Britain has everything to play for in developing and commercialising technologies needed to cope with the crises of pollution and congestion spreading around the globe.

UK firms still play leading roles in designing cars and making components, and as many cars are being made in Britain as ever before.

The Foresight Vehicle Project links the Government, industry, universities and other research laboratories in attempting to develop the technologies which will squeeze more traffic on to the roads while keeping it flowing, reduce harmful emissions and help drivers to navigate, avoid jams and motor more safely.

Within a couple of decades, the project's launch conference in Birmingham heard yesterday, driving will be transformed by the application of advanced electronics. Vehicles will be in constant communication with each other and with computer systems linked to roadside beacons, but the motorist will be blissfully unaware of this continual digital chattering for most of the time. Electronics will be involved in tolling, enforcing speed limits and permitting vehicles to travel safely at speed on crowded motorways.

When drivers need to interact with these systems, to



Countryside ramble: Tony Holdsworth, a huntman, takes his hounds out walking on the hills near Tiverton in Devon yesterday, when the Bill on ban foxhunting was published. Photograph: Richard Austin

make it a criminal offence for anyone to hunt any wild animal with dogs, punishable by a £5,000 fine, or six months' imprisonment. Farmers allowing their land to be used for hunting with dogs would also be

guilty of a similar offence. Courts could order the forfeiture of any vehicle, animal, or article used in hunting, and disqualify the offender for any period from owning a dog.

The courts could also order

the disposal of the dog "as the court thinks fit under the circumstances". The campaign behind the Bill, including the RSPCA, said it could include destroying the dogs but they would normally be found a

home by the RSPCA, or retrained.

The police would be given wide powers of search and arrest, including the right to go on to private property and to search vehicles if they suspect

an offence was being committed, although they would not be able to search private houses without a warrant.

A spokesman for the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance attacked the Bill as "unworkable". The alliance's spokeswoman, Janet George, said:

"Mike Foster's Bill is Draconian and unworkable and for anybody who owns a dog it makes it into an offence if the dog hunts anything."

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French candidate for European bank

France said yesterday it would present the Bank of France governor, Jean-Claude Trichet, as its candidate to run the future European Central Bank (ECB).

The nomination, announced in a joint statement by President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, sets Mr Trichet against Dutchman Wim Duisenberg, the current favourite and head of the ECB's forerunner, the European Monetary Institute (EMI).

"The role of the future European Central Bank in ensuring the credibility and success of the single currency will be crucial and the choice of the team leading the European Central Bank will be decisive in ensuring that the euro is launched in the best conditions possible," the statement said.

Mr Chirac forwarded France's nomination to Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, whose country currently holds the European Union presidency. The French announcement was immediately blasted by the Dutch central bank, which Mr Duisenberg headed before moving to the EMI this year.

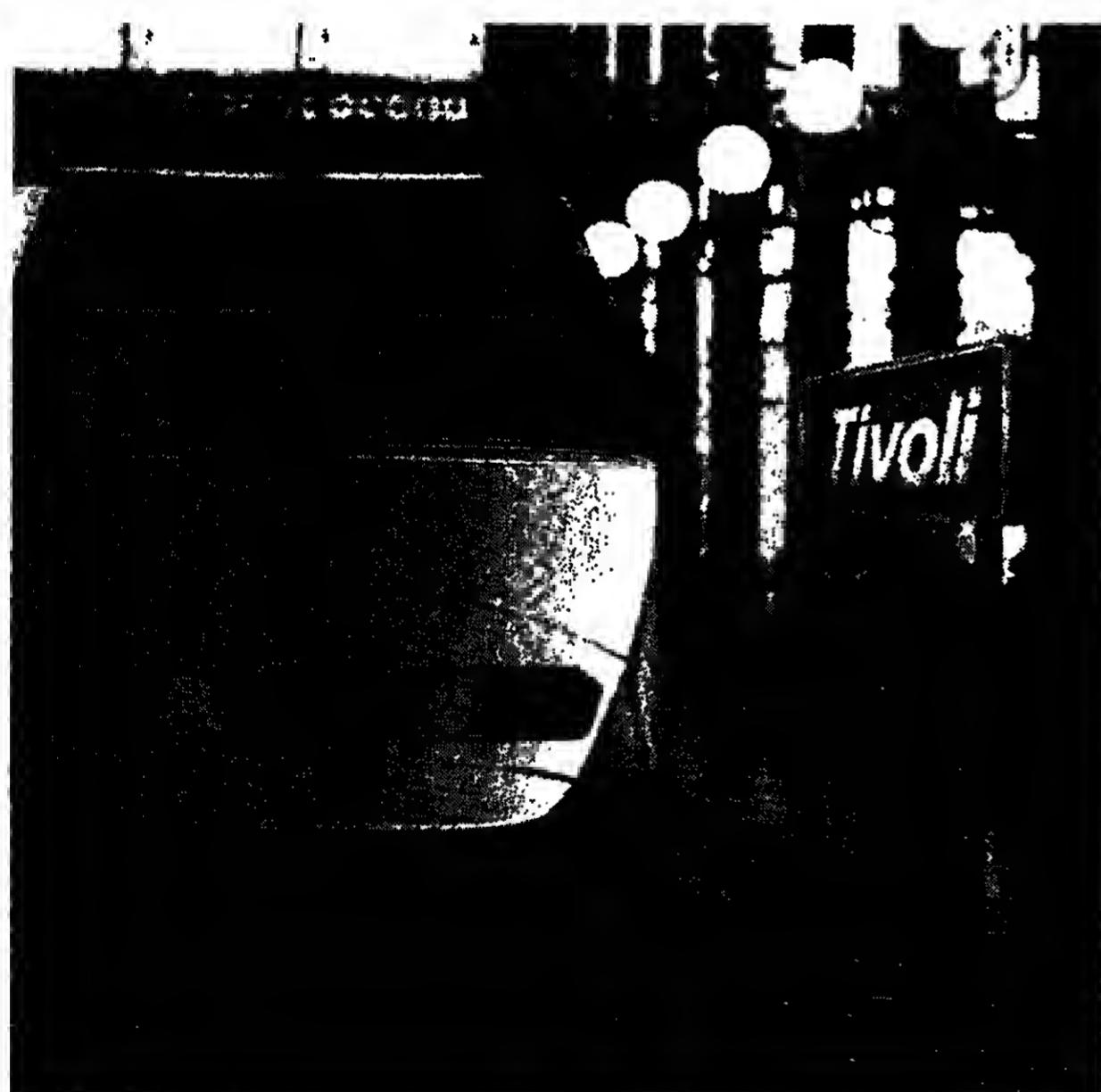
"We are surprised by this nomination of Mr Trichet and we also think that it's not very wise," said a Dutch central bank spokesman. "We are of the opinion that Mr Duisenberg is supported by a very large majority of the member states of the European Union and that also, given his reputation, he will in our view still be the first president of the ECB."

The German central bank president, Hans Tietmeyer, has said he favours Mr Duisenberg as head of the ECB.



A member of Afghanistan's Islamic fundamentalist Taliban militia giving a forcible haircut yesterday to a traveller he had just dragged from a bus. The reason? Hair covering the forehead is a nest for Satan, say Taliban members. Photograph: AFP

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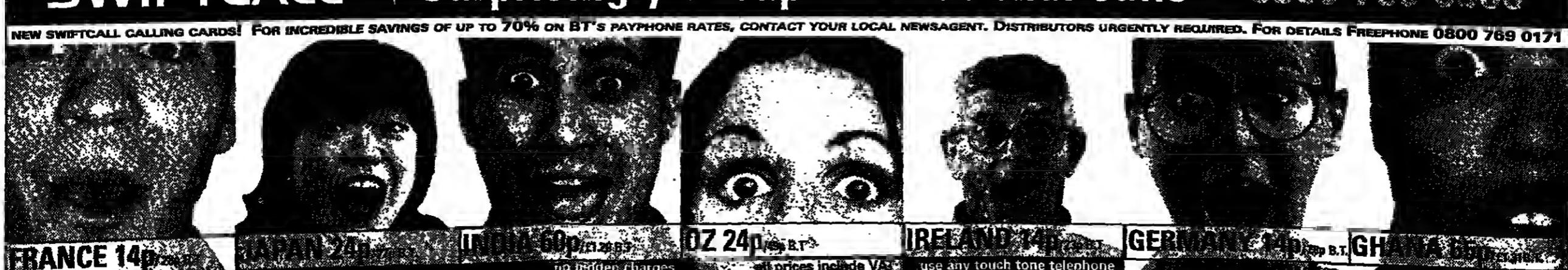
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Chirac heading for UK summit with a difference

Tony Blair's desire to project the brash new Britain knows no bounds — as Jacques Chirac will discover on Friday. This week's Franco-British summit will not be held at fuddy-duddy old Downing Street, or that heritage theme-park of Chequers. No, it's the booming Docklands for the French president, the 38th floor of the 800-ft Canary Wharf tower, no less.

Weather permitting, Mr Chirac will feast his eyes on the matchless beauties of Jubilee Line work, the emerging Millennium Dome and other features of Britain's biggest building-site. They beat blockade lines of juggernauts any day.

Rupert Cornwell

US slaps embargo on Sudan

Citing Sudan's support for terrorism, the United States is imposing economic sanctions that include a ban on bank loans and seizing of Sudanese assets in the US. President Bill Clinton signed an order also barring shipment of American technology to Sudan and import of its goods.

The Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said it "failed to respond to repeated expressions of concern or to the imposition of lesser sanctions."

AP — Washington

Radio wins ownership battle

Croatia's independent Radio 101 won a battle with the authorities over its ownership, obtaining a five-year broadcasting licence for the city of Zagreb. "Our 14-year-old dream has finally come true ... We managed to keep the radio in our own hands," the chief editor, Zrinka Vrabcic, said.

Reuters — Zagreb

Battered island evacuated

The Cook Islands will evacuate some 600 people from Manihiki island, where a cyclone killed five people and left 18 missing when waves tossed them into the lagoon. Cyclone Martin destroyed crops and homes on low-lying atolls in the Pacific nation and damaged its pearl industry.

AP — Sydney

US puts military action against Iraq on hold

As Baghdad's unilateral deadline neared for US inspectors to leave Iraq, the United States and the United Nations were engaged in intense diplomatic efforts to defuse a potentially inflammatory situation. An imminent US military strike, however, seemed not to be on the cards, as Mary Dejevsky reports.

Washington yesterday appeared intent on working through the UN, at least until all possibility of a solution to the weapons inspection in Iraq had been exhausted. While stressing the firmness of the US position, administration officials made clear that any threat of military action was off until the special UN mission to Iraq reported back, probably on Monday.

The mission, comprising Lakhdar Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, Emilio Jorge Cardenas, a former Argentine ambassador to the UN, and Jan Eliasson, Sweden's state secretary for foreign affairs, was expected to arrive in Baghdad today. Although the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, has agreed to receive the delegation, it was not known whether he would

agree to suspend today's deadline for the departure of Americans working for the UN and the threat against UN reconnaissance planes that was contained in a letter to the UN Security Council at the weekend.

UN officials would not say whether the lifting of the threat was a condition for the three-member mission to proceed, nor speculate about what would happen if Saddam Hussein declined.

Iraqi officials yesterday turned back three UN weapons teams incorporating US citizens when they arrived at inspection sites, but Baghdad made no move to act on its threat to shoot down UN reconnaissance planes. Flights by US-leased U2 spy planes proceeded yesterday as planned.

According to one view, the threat against the U2s was intended by Iraq to back up its call for US UN-employees to leave, and so would not come into effect until today.

In Washington, officials stressed that the special UN mission was not going to Baghdad to negotiate, but to impress upon Saddam Hussein the need to comply with UN resolutions. But observers also noted that Washington was concerned to preserve the unity of the Security Council, and did not want to reopen the split that had precipitated Saddam Hussein's move.

US attempts two weeks ago to toughen

UN sanctions against Iraq for non-compliance with weapons inspections had been opposed by four Security Council members, including France and Russia, and were described this week by several officials as a "tactical error". A similar division would be opened up if the US launched a military strike — even though Washington believes that in principle it, and the UN, have the authority to punish Iraq for violating existing UN resolutions without seeking new instructions from the Security Council.

UN officials in New York said the mission had to make clear to Iraq that it was unacceptable for any country to pick and choose the nationality of UN delegates or inspectors. They also noted that it was not only — or mainly — American participation in UN teams that had been challenged, but the authority of the UN itself and its Secretary General, Kofi Annan. This was why the Security Council had approved the emergency mission to Baghdad.

• Jordanians voted yesterday in parliamentary elections which have been boycotted by the Muslim Brotherhood and other opposition parties. The parties say parliament has been weakened by successive governments appointed by King Hussein and that yesterday's vote was rigged. The vote is strongly biased towards tribal areas and away from the cities.

Balkan foes opt for jaw, not war

Balkan leaders wrapped up an unprecedented regional summit yesterday, pledging to replace confrontation with co-operation. Rupert Cornwell assesses the outcome.

More important perhaps than the paucity of concrete results from the meeting was the fact it took place at all. For two days at least, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria and Macedonia, even Bosnia, put aside bitter enmities and promised to work together to advance the cause of stability and shared prosperity.

The closing declaration reads like an international diplomatic wish-list, with calls for respect of territorial integrity, rights of minorities and for quarrels to be settled by non-violent means — principles mostly honoured in the breach during centuries of war and civil conflicts across the region. It also urges joint moves to fight crime and improve communication and transport links.

Summing up the outcome of proceedings, the Greek Prime Minister, Costas Simitis, acknowledged the difficulties: "Our countries still have problems, some small, some large," he said. "But in time, we hope, we'll come together."

So much was evident as well from the two most closely

watched bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit in Iraklion, Crete — between Mr Simitis and his Turkish opposite number, Mesut Yilmaz, and between President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia and the Albanian Prime Minister, Fatos Nano.

Though both sets of talks seem to have been relatively friendly and constructive, neither produced specific recommendations to ease the age-old hostility of Greece and Turkey, currently focused on Cyprus, or defuse the grievances of the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo against Belgrade's oppressive rule of the province.

Not could the summiteers agree on how and where to set up a mooted Organisation of

Balkan States along the lines of regional groupings in the Americas, Africa, and South-East Asia. Cost was one hurdle — another was the rivalry between Greece and Turkey to play host to the body.

An even starker reminder of reality was provided by the Turkish military exercises yesterday in Turkish northern Cyprus. Ignoring pleas by the US to postpone them until after the Simitis-Yilmaz meeting, Ankara insisted the manoeuvres were essential to counter a military build-up in the Greek south of the divided island.

"They want the military power to seize the whole of Cyprus," Turkish officials said, "but Turkey has the power to confront every kind of threat."

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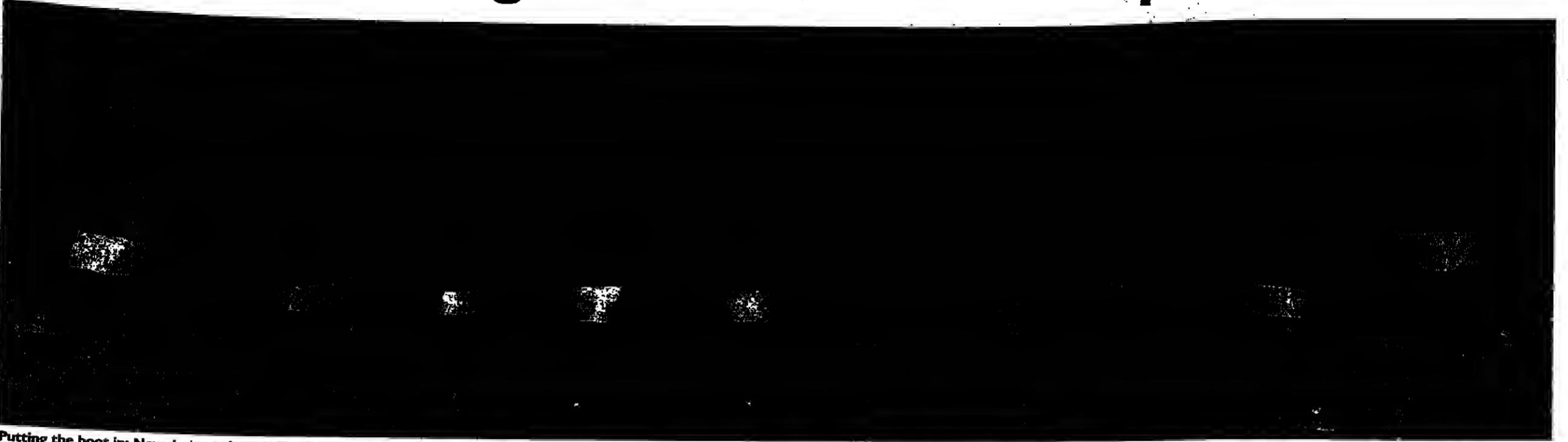
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Designer denims give Levi's a kick in the pants



Putting the boot in: New designer brands like G-star are winning over younger consumers. But retailers and importers still believe that the Levi's brand has a good future, and will prove more resistant than most to changing fashions

Levi Strauss & Co ships a million pairs of blue jeans a day. But the 50-year-old firm that prides itself as an American icon has laid off one third of its US workforce - the human casualties of "designer jeans" and cheap imitations, as Tim Cowell discovers.

It was, said a Levi Strauss spokesman, in a phrase he used repeatedly, part of the "ebb and flow" for one of America's oldest companies. But this particular ebb is probably deeper than most in the company's illustrious history. Levi's was founded in San Francisco to supply working clothes to the 49ers (the miners of the California gold-rush in 1849) and its staged retreat in the US market came after a decade of record growth. But it was hard not to read its decision this week to close 11 US plants as a result of deeper cultural changes in a nation that now sips

lesson about the modern American employment market. A family-run company that prided itself on "aspirational behaviour" and political correctness - attempting to re-educate Czech employees on attitudes to gypsies, for example - it publicly refused to exploit cheap labour in Mexico or Asia. Its US employees had, on average, 10 years service with the company.

In the Great Depression, the company boasted, it kept workers busy laying floors in its San Francisco plant while it waited for demand to recover. But Levi's has now belatedly joined the great wave of corporate restructuring from the 1980s, letting 6,400 people go because, it said, there was nothing for them to do. For the first time, Levi's will have more employees overseas than at home. "Wealthy and magnanimous, Levi Strauss allowed its employees to forget one of the great economic lessons of our age: that job security is dead and gone," the business magazine *Fortune* observed, after a first round of lay-offs earlier this year. "This is a company that needed a kick in the pants and got one."

LOSING THE BRAND WAR

The day Tesco began selling Levi's 501s at knock-down prices was the day the death knell sounded for lovers of the famous button-fly jeans with the little red tag.

In the Eighties, Levi's 501s were the epitome of style. They had to be worn ripped to shreds, worn tight over the rear and teamed with a sturdy pair of Dr Marten boots. Everyone wore them, from pop stars and models to the man on the street. Even now, as we approach the end of the Nineties, Levi's still have the biggest market share as they push their Capital "E" vintage dark denim jeans, and have sold about 2.5 billion pairs since 1853, but discerning denim consumers have moved on.

This move away from Levi's is noticeable on the street. At Camden market in London traders used to rely solely on their sales of second-hand, vintage and new Levi's, but customers are more interested in other brands such as Big Blue, Lois, Wrangler and Lee when it comes to buying jeans. Others traders have found military combat trousers more appealing to customers.

At Roldit, a Camden-based company that built its reputation on Levi's, retail sales of 501s have dropped by 30 per cent in the last year, and wholesale sales of the jeans, which were sold by the ton, have ceased altogether. This is not to say that Levi's are going down altogether. Adam Cooper, from American Classics, believes that it will never be over for Levi's. "As long as Levi's have got the Capital 'E' 501 jeans they will stay the best, it's the jeans everyone aspires to," he says.

The change that has taken place in the denim market has more to do with youth trends and new designer brands than really bad news for the company. According to market researchers Mintel, the 45-54 age group will be the biggest growth area for jeans in the next four years, and it is unlikely that jeans by Helmut Lang, Dolce & Gabbana, John Rocha, or indeed new cult brand G-Star will attract them. It will, of course be Levi's. — Melanie Rickey

gourmet coffee and proposes to ban the Marlboro Man.

In the West, the spiritual home of jeans, bottoms that once bounced in the saddle are likely to remain planted firmly in office chairs, and the region now prides itself on high-tech home offices rather than ranching. Levi's grew through the recession of the early 1990s, but this year, with the American economy flourishing, sales of its jeans actually shrank for the first time since the mid 1980s.

Americans can pick and choose high-priced jeans from fashion labels like Tommy Hilfiger or Calvin Klein, they can opt for soft fabrics, stone-washed or sand-blasted, or choose cheaper generic brands, often sewn overseas, that are said to offer similar quality without the Levi's label. Levi's closures also confirmed, for some, the cruellest

Three plants closed in El Paso, Texas. In Centerville, Tennessee, the mayor called for a crisis meeting with the state's governor. The trauma for small-town factories, mostly in the South, was softened by one of the most generous severance packages ever seen.

Workers will get eight months' paid notice, even if they immediately find other jobs, health care for 18 months, and \$6,000 for job training or relocation. The Levi Strauss Foundation will spend \$8m on community aid. There was, remarkably, not a whisper from the biggest textile workers' union, UNITE. Its statement instead praised the company's "high-road management".

The slogan of a recent Levi's advertising campaign, unveiled amid much fanfare earlier this year, was "They Go On". It is now under review.

Fashion, page 17

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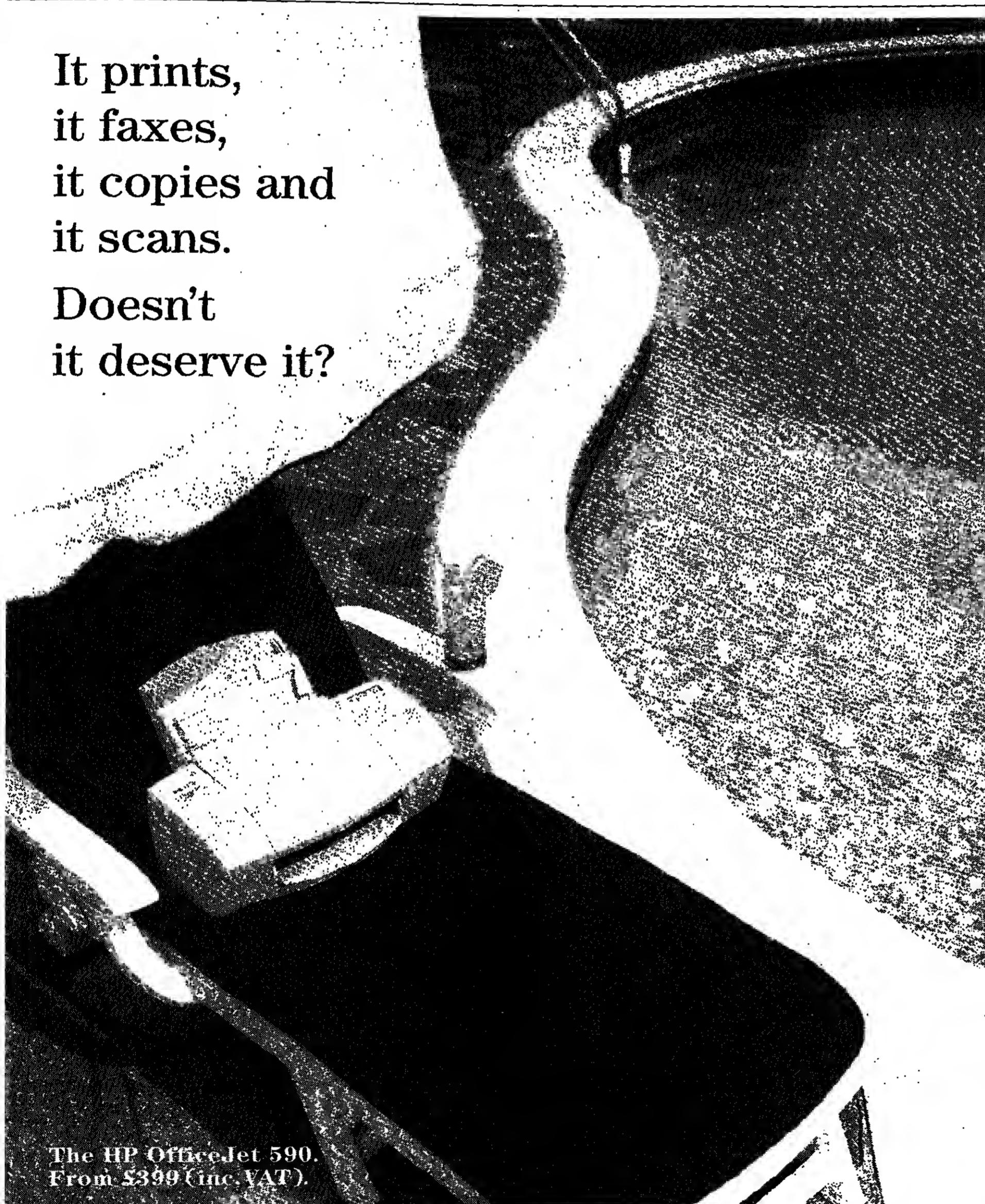
The return of the Iron Lady, Antipodean style



Jenny Shipley: One MP said that 'She never raises her voice and never uses bad language, but the assault is deadly'

Photograph: AP

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**HEWLETT
PACKARD**

12/11/97 150

She would, according to a fellow MP, be a good spokesman for the Spanish Inquisition. Jenny Shipley, the woman who will become Prime Minister of New Zealand, is a formidable political operator. But, our correspondent writes from Wellington, she has already upset her coalition partners.

New Zealand's ruling National Party yesterday confirmed Jenny Shipley as its new leader and Prime Minister-designate but its junior coalition partner refused to endorse the changeover. It was a first-day obstacle the woman who has been dubbed "the silent men-

acer of New Zealand politics" and, like Margaret Thatcher, tougher than any man in the Cabinet, took in her stride.

Having ousted seven-year Prime Minister Jim Bolger in a bloodless but faultlessly executed coup on Monday, she was happy to give Winston Peters' New Zealand First party a breathing space to consider the transition, she said.

It may be the only breathing space he gets, for if he stays in government as Deputy Prime Minister he will find Mrs Shipley very different to deal with than Mr Bolger, a former political opponent who became a late night whisky drinking friend as a Cabinet colleague.

He has already been warned by a former adviser and fellow NZ First MP, Michael Laws, who told a newspaper earlier this year: "Frankly, if I wanted somebody to bring a human face to the Spanish Inquisition, I would have chosen Jenny."

"Jenny can tell you in wonderful warm tones how she's going to garrote you and then disembowel you and throw your intestines over her left shoulder," he said. "She never raises her voice and never uses bad language, but the assault is deadly."

Mr Peters, angry that he was not consulted about the coup and worried that Mrs Shipley, much more of an economic conservative than Mr Bolger, will shift policies to the right, said today NZ First would not decide whether to support her for another week.

"New Zealand First will not become captive to any new right wing agenda," he warned. "We will remain faithful to our principles and philosophy." Mr Peters added that any move to dilute the coalition agreement he signed with Mr Bolger 11 months ago as a basis for cooperation would "carry serious implications for the coalition partnership".

If his aim was to browbeat Mrs Shipley into submission before she takes up her new job next month, there was no sign he had succeeded when she addressed Parliament later in the day.

In tones that reflected more the velvet glove than the iron fist she is capable of, she assured the nation she wanted the centre-right coalition to continue and the agreement was an "enduring document" that she was not about to try to renegotiate. (Even though she said the National Party caucus had given her authority to talk to NZ First to "work on the coalition transition arrangements".)

She even confirmed that the NZ\$5 billion extra spending on social policies that Mr Peters forced Mr Bolger to accept as

the price of his co-operation was "not negotiable".

All of which, coupled with fulsome praise for Jim Bolger as an "outstanding leader of this country" had observers wondering why the coup had occurred. It happened, in fact, because National Party supporters in big business, afraid the extra government spending would cause a Budget blow-out, felt a soft Mr Bolger had allowed NZ First, with its focus on health, welfare and education, to compromise traditional conservative National Party policies.

Further, it was said, the government had halted the free market reforms and privatisation programme that were a feature of the Nationals' first six years in office (when they governed on their own) and the economy was at a standstill.

Mrs Shipley is expected to get things moving again and economic analysts were already telling clients in their faxed newsletters today that she would push the government further to the right, kick-start reform and pursue "business-friendly" policy initiatives.

How she will do this and keep a suspicious NZ First on-side is far from clear. Especially as grassroots National Party supporters, weary of a spate of

BY DAVID
BARBER

NZ First mini-scandals and mishaps this year, are looking to her to differentiate the party from its coalition partner and revive voter support in opinion polls that has reached alarmingly low levels.

Meanwhile, Mr Bolger called a press conference to reflect on the last seven years and perhaps his place in history. He likes to take credit for the country's remarkable economic recovery, but the groundwork for the sweeping reforms that brought this about was laid by a Labour government in 1984-90 which was kicked out by voters in favour of Mr Bolger for its pains.

He takes pride in his government's efforts to settle a century and a half of Maori grievances over confiscated land and other lost rights.

But he will probably be remembered most as the man who managed the transition from the Westminster style of first-past-the-post voting to proportional representation last year - the system that produced the coalition government and, ironically, ultimately his downfall.

How NZ became a political testbed

Ever since the mid-1980s when a Labour government under David Lange initiated an extraordinary decade of change in the country's politics, economy and administration, New Zealand has been a sort of Pacific laboratory for free market reformers.

A stream of visitors from the United States and Britain have made the pilgrimage to Wellington to see how the reforms favoured by President Reagan and Prime Minister Thatcher - but never quite implemented - could be pushed.

Under Lange and his Treasurer, Sir Roger Douglas, government spending was radically retrenched, supports for farmers cut and trade liberalised. The New Zealand dollar was allowed to float.

After the Lange government imploded and the National Party took over, reforms continued: the central bank governor and permanent secretaries were placed on performance contracts, social welfare sharply cut, nationalised industry sold off and schools and hospitals placed under local autonomous boards. Freedom of information legislation was introduced and, last year, proportional representation applied to national elections.

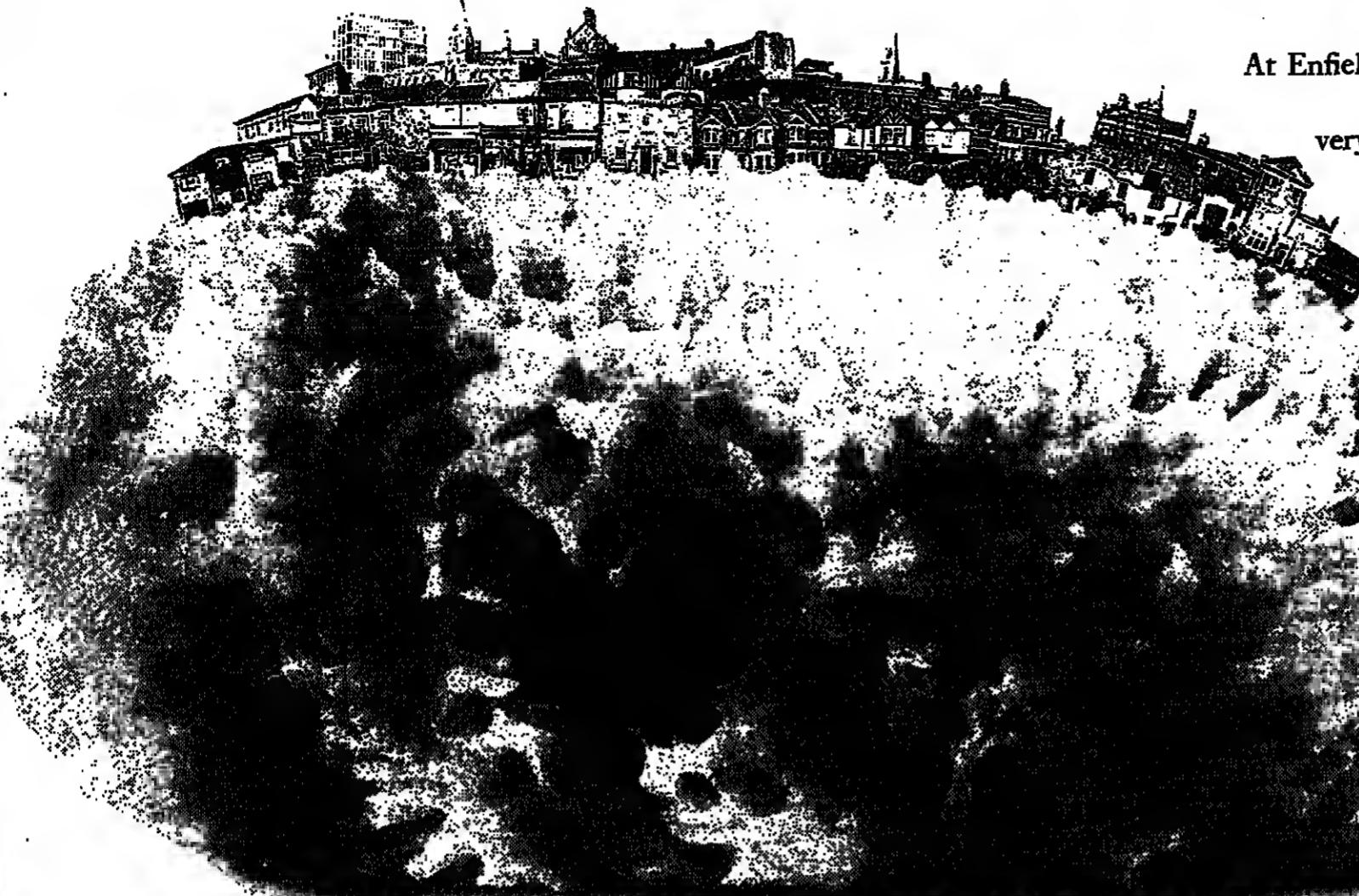
If she has her way, Jenny Shipley will continue the trend: as transport minister she has favoured a proposal to force farmers to maintain rural roads by imposing tolls.

It has not however only been right-wingers who have been attracted by the New Zealand experiment in pulling government back. Among recent visitors was Dr David Clark, Labour Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in New Zealand to study freedom of information and pick up ideas about government organisation for his forthcoming White Paper on the civil service.

Visitors to Wellington do not always realise, however, that in New Zealand itself, the gloss has long worn off reform. The National Party-New Zealand First coalition is doing badly in the polls, which pick up public resistance to further free market reforms. In a referendum on a radical plan to abolish state pensions held in September the government plan was defeated by a margin of more than nine to one.

New Zealand's system of PR - which produced a coalition government last autumn - is also under severe criticism. Recent polls suggest that if another referendum is held New Zealanders will vote for a return to first-past-the-post.

After losing power, New Zealand Labour has been striving under its new leader Helen Clark to reinvent itself as a centrist alternative. Under Tony Blair, British Labour has become something of a role model and there has recently been much NZ Labour traffic to London. — David Walker



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A flow of good ideas.

Invisible man hoping for by-election win

Labour's candidate in tomorrow's Paisley South by-election has been dubbed the "invisible man". Stephen Goodwin finds that the low-key campaign appears to be working.

"Where is Blair?" demanded a flyer put out by the Conservatives yesterday. And where too was Douglas Alexander, the squeaky clean candidate chosen by Labour to defend the seat in sleaze-dogged Paisley?

To the frustration of his political opponents, particular the Scottish National Party as the main challenger, Labour strategists have kept Mr Alexander well out of the limelight. The customary practice of daily press conferences was dropped,

sparing him embarrassing questions about Labour's dirty political record in Renfrewshire, and contact on the streets or in community halls has been carefully controlled.

"Labour's campaign has been so low key as to be just not there," said Sheila Laidlaw, the Tory candidate, as opposition parties spent yesterday railing the tactics. "Douglas Alexander told us from the outset that he intended fighting this by-election

on Labour's record over their first six months in government. Instead he has been conspicuous by his silence.

"He may well be about to pay dearly for this carefully calculated play, for the message we are getting on the doorsteps is that the voters are sick and tired of the contempt they are being shown by Mr Alexander and his political masters," Mrs Laidlaw said.

The SNP's Ian Blackford ac-

cused Mr Alexander of being "frightened" of meeting voters while Eileen McCullin, the Liberal Democrat candidate, said Labour was "hiding behind the Representation of the People Act". If broadcasters had no film of Mr Alexander they could not show other candidates who had faced the cameras, she said.

However, the indications are Mr Alexander will hold the seat, albeit by a much smaller

margin than the 12,000-vote majority enjoyed by Gordon McMaster, whose suicide caused the by-election. A low turnout is likely.

Tony Blair had been expected to lend his weight to the campaign in the final days but party managers consider it no longer necessary. William Hague, Paddy Ashdown and Alex Salmond have all visited Paisley. The Tories tried to exploit the Prime Minister's absence, saying he

had promised to visit every by-election but was "too embarrassed by Labour's sleaze".

A further step was taken yesterday to neutralise the sleaze factor when the Labour group on Renfrewshire Council moved to strip suspended party member Harry Revie of committee posts worth £18,000 a year in allowances.

Mr Alexander, in reply to one of four questions allowed the press when he met pensioners in a village hall, said it showed Labour taking firm action when serious allegations were made.

Following the script, he said Labour was winning the by-election on a positive agenda about health, education and jobs. As for the claims of his opponents that he was a "party lackey" and showing contempt for the voters there were "desperate words from desperate candidates."

Where is Winchester's missing candidate?

As nominations close today for the Winchester by-election, the candidates are hoping to solve a mystery: where is John Browne?

The former MP for the city, who announced his retirement in 1990 and then stood as an independent in the next two general elections, has a habit of arriving with his nomination papers at the eleventh hour.

So far, no one has seen him as preparations have progressed for a re-run of 1 May, ordered by the high court after a declared two-vote victory by Mark Oaten, a Liberal Democrat, was challenged by the ousted Conservative, Gerry Malone.

In May, Mr Browne gave his address as Boynton Beach, Florida. When *The Independent* rang yesterday the phone was an-

swered by a man with an American accent who said his name was John Browne but claimed to know nothing about the by-election.

Robin Page, the Referendum/UK Independence Party Alliance candidate, could be affected, as Mr Browne stood as an Anti-Federal Europe candidate in May. — Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent

reception's terrible,
have another look
for my tape

like I said,
it's not in here

don't be ridiculous

you know it never
leaves the car

I'm not joking

like I need reminding

tapes don't just
vanish into thin air

pity.



Clare Short: Stress on ethics. Photograph: Adrian Dennis

Short promises to double overseas aid

The Government will increase the share of resources going into the overseas aid budget for the first time since 1979, Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, told *The Independent*. The White Paper on development published today restates the Government's intention to aim for a 0.7 per cent of GDP target, which would more than double Britain's aid spending.

Ms Short said that after discussions with the Chancellor she expected an increase in her department's budget starting in 1999.

"We are redirecting resources very significantly for next year."

The following year she ex-

pected to be able to increase spending in line with the

strategy set out in the new White Paper, the first on international development for more than 20 years.

"That is the logic of the

possible thanks to the end of the Cold War, which meant aid was directed mainly for geopolitical purposes, Ms Short said. In addition, the International Monetary Fund had shed the excesses of monetarism, such as making governments in desperately poor countries charge for basic healthcare. "They would never have dared to do that in Britain and they were doing it in the poorest countries in the world."

However, the pragmatism of the White Paper might well disappoint some idealists in the development business. It recognises the reality of the global capital market and emphasises the need for developing countries to work within international rules on investment and trade.

Ms Short said: "Being against globalisation is like being against the Industrial Revolution. Some people were."

William Blake was - and it was an honourable thing to be. But history suggests you might be wasting some of your energy."

She hinted that she would have preferred to see minimum standards on working conditions and the environment written into trade rules, saying she sees a danger of labour standards being driven down by international competition.

This would take the official British aid budget from £2.3bn to more than £5bn in today's money. "It's a very small amount of money in return for which Britain will get an enormous moral authority on the world stage. It's cheap at the price."

The White Paper links receipt of British aid to the commitment to certain policies by the recipient countries. Preferred "partners" will get increased longer-term aid. While the Government will not necessarily cut aid to other poor countries, it will be directed through charities and non-governmental organisations rather than through official government channels.

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Today's statement will also emphasise the need for companies to maintain high ethical standards in doing business in the developing world, which the department will encourage through supporting voluntary codes of conduct. It has already announced that it is working on an ethical code with the big supermarket chains.

BY DIANE
COYLE

Government's commitments, to stay within existing totals for two years and then to increase our spend as we go through to the election."

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The Inter

All wrapped up like
a teddy-bear

Functional, warm and cosy, the fleece is no longer just for the sports fanatic, writes Tamsin Blanchard. Comfort dressing is now acceptable any time, any place, anywhere. Who cares that you may resemble a Tellytubby? At least it's eco-friendly.

The "fleece" is to the Nineties what the shell suit was to the Eighties. It has become the universal sportswear, worn by the fitness fanatic who goes jogging in his on cold winter mornings, to the clubber who wraps her round her waist whilst dancing and wears it to go home in or the office worker who zips one up inside her coat so she can stay warm in the bus queue. Like all good, functional ideas, the fleece jacket has transcended age, gender and occasion; it has become the grown up clothing equivalent of a comfort blanket. And who can resist the feeling of being wrapped up like a teddy-bear?

I blame the Tellytubbies in their all-in-one fleecy suits. If I had the option between a trouser suit and a fleecy romper to wear to work in the morning, I know which one I would go for. We have become a nation of comfort seekers. Structured clothing is off the agenda. A neat jacket and coat might look smart and elegant, but who wants to feel as though their arms are trussed up all day? Just as we are used to having our fruit and veg packed into self-contained, easy-to-use, pre-washed units, so too we want our wardrobes to be as easy as possible. The art of mixing style and comfort is a fine balancing act. To avoid looking like Wayne or Waynetta, simply wear your fleece with some-

thing a little special like a delicate beaded dress. Not only is a fleece jacket warm and functional, it can be eco-friendly too, the perfect way of recycling plastic drinks bottles. They can simply be melted down and spun into a fibre which, in turn, is woven into high-performance fleece fabric.

We expect to see American labels like Gap, Timberland and Northface using fleece for their sportswear ranges. But it's not something you would associate with traditional clothing company, Thomas Burberry. But when Burberry launched its Sport range this year, perfecting fleece was high on the priority list. The fact that fashion has been so transformed by sportswear over the past two decades - from breathable, stretchable, washable fabrics we wear to the drawstring waists, hooded tops, and training shoes that are now as commonplace in fashion shops as in the locker room - is more to do with the comfort factor than with the desire to be healthy and fit.

It's about time too. Compare a typical outfit from today with something our great-grandparents might have worn in 1897. Then, it was all corset stays, hooks and eyes, underskirts, lacing and suspenders. Today dressing needs no assistance or thought whatsoever. It's just a matter of a zip here and an elasticised waist there. And we are getting to the stage of one size fits all: the fabrics stretch to accommodate the wearer. That's progress. Or is it? Do we really want to look like Tellytubbies? Shouldn't we suffer a bit for fashion?

The great thing is you can be dressed as inappropriately as you like for a cold night standing round a bonfire but as long as you zip that fleece up high, you will be cosy and warm. Now that really is progress.

When Jigsaw won Retailer of the Year for women at the British Fashion Awards, many felt that it was well deserved. But in the

arena of men's retailing, which company is currently kicking up a storm on the High Street? asks Melanie Rickey.



Want to look a million dollars but can't afford it? Check out Reiss

A few days before Jigsaw scooped their award, Reiss won the men's equivalent at the FHM Menswear awards, beating strong competition from Jigsaw for men. Reiss is not one of those shops whose image

shouts "I'm hip and cool" from the roof-tops. Rather, it is aimed at men who want well designed, fashionable clothes that are affordable, not covered with logos and, furthermore, are available in smart surroundings.

The FHM awards were set up in 1995 to recognise the menswear fashion industry (which, incidentally, will raise in profile next year when the first London Men's Fashion Week takes place from 18-22 January 1998 in Chelsea), and Ed Needham, editor of FHM, is a firm believer in shops like Reiss both for his readers and occasionally for himself. "Our policy at the magazine is to show the clothes that men really want to buy," he says.

"That means pages and pages of fashion where it is possible to see the clothes clearly, and actually to be able to go to the local shopping area and buy them." This has proved a successful policy for FHM. Needham believes Reiss, like Jigsaw for Men, have opened up this middle market, and made it possible for men to make an informed decision when buying clothes, rather than relying on a wife/ girlfriend/ mother.

Reiss was set up in the mid-Seventies by Londoner David Reiss, an entrepreneur who began his business by selling de-

signer labels. In 1987 he decided to set up an in-house design team and hasn't looked back. For him the award was a milestone: "It gave me a great deal of satisfaction. We've finally got recognition from both our customers and the industry."

The "total designer look" under one label has worked well, despite a few hiccups, and now Reiss is split into three strands: the main line, which is mainly tailoring; R-label, which is outerwear, jeans and jumpers; and Accesso-Reiss, which, as the name suggests, covers everything from sunglasses to underwear.

Early next year they will launch RE, a casual sporty range, and for Autumn 1998 a capsule collection for women.

Their current best sellers are leather coats which start at £295, chunk rib roll-neck jumpers, from £59, and slim-fit shirts in stretch fabrics, also from £59.

Reiss have 10 branches nationwide. Call 071-225 4900 for your nearest stockist.



Above: Cappuccino leather jacket, £395; stone rib roll-neck, £59; charcoal trousers, £59

Above right: Charcoal pin-striped suit, £335; grey cashmere V-neck sweater, £59

Top left: Orange fleece, £55, by Thomas Burberry Sport, 167 Regent Street, London W1 (mail order 0171-930 7803).

Blue velvet zip-up top, £45, by French Connection, 249 Regent Street, London W1, and branches nationwide (enquiries 0181-399 7200); black silk skirt with sequins, £159, by Nicole Farhi, before; backdash trainers, £64.99, by Adidas from JD Sports, 267-269 Oxford Street, London W1 and stores nationwide.

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19/OBITUARIES

THE INDEPENDENT
WEDNESDAY
5 NOVEMBER 1997

hedral Paul Jarrico

Israel Shapiro (Paul Jarrico), screenwriter and film producer; born Los Angeles (2 January 1915; twice married; died Los Angeles 28 October 1997).

On Monday 27 October, the once-blacklisted screenwriter Paul Jarrico received a standing ovation at a 50th-anniversary event commemorating the start of the notorious "Un-American" hearings of 1947. On Tuesday 28 October, Jarrico died after the car he was driving hit a tree. For decades he had campaigned tirelessly to restore screen credits to himself and other screenwriters who had been forced to work under pseudonyms and behind fronts.

Paul Jarrico, a Communist for 24 years, came by his politics naturally: his Russian immigrant father was a passionate Socialist-Zionist and a radical lawyer. While studying at UCLA during the early days of the Depression, the young Paul joined the Communist Party. Soon after graduating, he began submitting original screen stories to the studios. Columbia Pictures bought one of them, and turned it into *Little Adventures* (1938), a tacit vehicle for their child star Edith Fellows. Columbia next signed Jarrico to write the screenplay for *No Time to Marry* (1938), a slight comedy about two star reporters (Mary Astor and Richard Arlen) who are so busy scooping one another, they keep having to postpone their wedding.

For RKO he co-wrote *For the Asking* (1939), a muddled love-triangle drama starring Lucille Ball in the seductive role of a jilted beautician. Back at Columbia, he co-wrote *The Face Behind the Mask* (1941). The macabre story of an immigrant so hideously disfigured in a fire that he wears a tight-fitting rubber mask, this stylish second feature gave Peter Lorre a rare chance to be both terrifying and affecting.

Jarrico next returned to RKO to write the successful *Tom, Dick and Harry* (1941), which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay. Janie (Ginger Rogers) is simultaneously engaged to three men: Tom, a go-getting car salesman

(George Murphy), Dick, a stave millionaire (Alan Marshal), and Harry, a poor but idealistic mechanic (Burgess Meredith). The film is built around a series of dream sequences, and typical of Jarrico's touch is the dream in which Janie sees a newspaper headline announcing her marriage to the millionaire. Also on the page is a smaller headline reading: "Hitler Assassinated".

"A tribute to our great ally, it captures authentically the spirit of an entire country!" So trumpeted MGM's publicity department about its lavish *Song of Russia* (1943), in which Robert Taylor stretched credibility to the snapping point as a great symphonic conductor. Filmed at the express request of President Roosevelt, who wanted to show solidarity to the Soviet Union, it was written by Jarrico and his friend and fellow Communist Richard Collins. They next wrote the all-star *Thousands Cheer* (also 1943) before Jarrico went into the Merchant Marine and, later, the Navy.

He returned to films to write additional dialogue for *The Search* (1948), its director Fred Zinnemann made his name and Montgomery Clift his screen debut in this moving semi-documentary about two displaced persons: mother and child, searching for each other in post-war Germany. With the director producer Ida Lupino, he wrote *Not Wanted* (1949), a sympathetic study of an unmarried mother, and skilfully adapted James Ramsey Ullman's novel *The White Tower* (1950).

In 1951 the fact that, seven years earlier, *Song of Russia* had been made at Roosevelt's behest cut no ice with the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Realising this, the film's co-writer Richard Collins eagerly volunteered to address the committee as a "friendly witness". He was promiscuously friendly, giving the witch-hunters 26 names. One of those, Paul Jarrico, refused to incriminate anyone on his own appearance before the committee, and so found himself a non-person.

He was instantly sacked by RKO's Head of Production, Howard Hughes, who also refused to give him script credit on *The Last Legion Story*, the film



Poster for *Tom, Dick and Harry* (1941), which won Jarrico an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay.

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

he had been writing. When a California television station showed a print of *Tom, Dick and Harry* which omitted his name from the credits, Jarrico commented, "The public is not to be protected from my work, however beguiling and subversive it may be. The public is only to be protected from my name."

Deciding to create a film company which would provide work for blacklisted members of the motion picture industry, he produced *Salt of the Earth* (1953), a powerful, pro-feminist drama about the consequences of a miners strike in New Mexico. Written by the blacklisted Michael Wilson and directed by Herbert J. Biberman, one of the original "Unfriendly 10", Michael Wilson shared the name "Ivo Pitrelli" when they co-wrote *Five*

found its distribution blocked by the film industry. "It was blacklisted," said Jarrico, "because we were blacklisted."

In 1958, when the US Supreme Court ended the State Department's practice of withholding passports on political grounds, Jarrico was finally free to seek work abroad. An Un-American in Paris, he used many names, writing scripts on "the black market" – that bizarre bazaar where 1 and dozens of my blacklisted friends supported themselves for years." Under the pseudonym "Peter Achilles" he wrote the British-made *All Night Long* (1961), and he and Michael Wilson shared the name "Ivo Pitrelli" when they co-wrote *Five*

– Dick Vosburgh

Branded Women (1960), a film about Yugoslav partisans during the Second World War. After the blacklist faded, Jarrico worked as executive story editor on such television programmes as *Call to Glory* (1984) and *Fortune Dame* (1986), and wrote the Charles Bronson film *Messenger of Death* (1988). As head of a revamped committee set up by the Writers Guild of America, he recently took satisfaction in announcing that the credits of 34 films made during the Cold War will at long last be changed to reveal the true author. But, he added, "There are many more credits that need restoring."

– Dick Vosburgh

Paul Guth, writer and journalist; born Ossan (Hautes-Pyrénées), France 5 March 1910; married 1936 Juliette Louïère; died Ville d'Avray (Hauts-de-Seine), France 28 October 1997.

Schoolboys who are just too brilliant at all subjects often tend to perpetuate that facility in adult life displays of unquenchable intellectual versatility in futile search for the approval of a non-existent head-master. Paul Guth, of the multiple literary talents, songth membership of the Académie Française: but that severe headmaster always turned him down.

He was of humble origins in a small Pyrenean town, and was such an outstanding scholar at the local Collège de Villefranche-sur-Lot that his teachers urged his parents to send him, with the help of a bursary, to the prestigious Lycée Louis-le-Grand in Paris, where he studied literature and the classics. Among his classmates were Georges Pompidou and Léopold Sédar Senghor. He graduated with distinction from the Faculté des Lettres de Paris in 1933.

He spent a few years teaching French, Latin and Greek in the provinces, then in Paris at another famous school, the Lycée Janson-de-Sailly, from 1937 to 1945, where one of his students was another future president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. He gave up teaching to try to make a living by his pen.

He had already started to write while still a schoolboy. In Paris, he began making friends in literary and artistic circles, one of whom was the film director Robert Bresson. In 1944, with Paris still occupied by the Nazis, Bresson was planning to make a film based on an episode in Diderot's *Jacques le Fataliste*, for which Cortéau had agreed to write the dialogue. Bresson wanted to update it to the present and the sublime Maria Casarès was to portray the sinister, scheming beauty seeking revenge on a wealthy, unfaithful lover.

There was a curious affinity of temperament in Guth and Bresson. Guth was an intellectual with a certain sweetness and innocence of character. Bresson was of solid bourgeois descent, an adventurous conservative who always referred to the cinema as *le cinématographe* to distinguish his austere, highly personal, original and subtle creations from what he considered to be the trash of most other directors. Christopher Sykes, in the bygone days of "U and Non-U", informed us that the right people referred to the seventh art as "the kinéma", while the middle classes called it the cinematograph. Guth used this appealingly helpless innocent to satirise modern life – a pathetic hero who is always finding himself in ridiculous situations, and with childlike frankness making unexpected pungent commentaries on people and institutions.

His readers often confused him with his leading character, and with reason: his open face, gentle smile, big blue eyes and simple demeanour could easily mislead the unwary. But he was using a mask for his brilliant intellect, for his astounding range of knowledge, for his candour, his purity of heart, for his limpid literary style. He was a *faux naïf*.

The first of the series starring this inimitable character was *Les Mémoires d'un naïf* (1953), which won the Prix Courcier, followed by *Le Naïf sous des draperies* ("The Naïf in the Army", 1955) and *Le Naïf aux quarante enfants* ("The Naïf and the Forty Kids", 1956). The last gained what might be called a school-leaving prize: Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie Française.

Guth wrote and wrote and was a regular contributor to *Le Figaro* and many other journals. He won prizes and decorations and literary distinctions. Behind his writing there was an enthusiasm, an inner kindness and courteous discretion that make all his books – even his *Histoire de la littérature française* (1992) – glow with the radiance of a devoted teacher. And that mischievous sense of absurd humour was always there. In that last-named work, for example, we find no dry-as-dust summaries. The writers of the past come alive in a comical way: Montaigne is a learned cat, Malherbe is *le Père Ubu de la grammaire*. It is no wonder that many of his books were enjoyed in schools. Paul Guth loved words, and they made him lovable to a vast readership of all ages: much better than being a member of the stuffy old Académie Française.

– James Kirkup

the Western European Union and the Council of Europe. He had a host of other interests, including – as he confessed in 1960 – a penchant for owning racehorses, which lost him money.

He was careless of his appearance, once evoking from David McKie of the *Guardian* the remark that his summer suit "looks as though it has just spent the winter in someone's laundry basket..." But, throughout his life he was brave, tenacious and industrious in pursuit of his manifold interests and concerns. Few politicians have served their country better without ever holding ministerial office.

– Patrick Cosgrave

Sir John Farr

John Arnold Farr, landowner and politician; born Nottingham 25 September 1922; MP (Conservative) for Harborough 1959-92; Kt 1984; married 1960 Susan Ann Milburn (two sons); died 26 October 1997.

John Farr, who sat as Member of Parliament for Harborough from 1959 to 1992, was, above all, an old-fashioned, right-wing Tory romantic.

He had a highly traditional rural and brewing background, and a good war record in the Royal Navy. His landholdings were extensive, in Britain, in

Ireland and in Zimbabwe, where he owned 10,500 acres. He was keen on hunting, shooting, fishing and cricket, but he could be very unconventional in right-wing political terms.

He was always willing to oppose the government of the day when he thought them wrong. Thus, while he staunchly upheld the rights of private gun owners, he fought strongly against the increase in the number of licences allowed by legislation in 1980, fearing that it would encourage irresponsible owners of firearms. Again in 1987, when the Government introduced restrictive legislation on the possession of firearms in the af-

termath of the Hungerford massacre, Farr angered the shooting fraternity by stoutly supporting the new legislation.

In the run-up to British entry into the then Common Market Farr resolutely defied the Heath government, arguing instead for the creation of a Commonwealth parliament, which he believed would better serve the commercial and political interests of Britain. On the other hand, to the great embarrassment of the Home Office in the 1980s, he campaigned strongly for a retrial of those convicted of the Guildford and Birmingham bombings, and consistently

attacked the Appeal Court for its inadequacies in reversing miscarriages of justice.

Above all, however, Farr was a countryman and conservationist, before that term became fashionable. His environmental concern was, indeed, shown in his maiden speech in 1959, criticising the use of toxic sprays. Again in 1972, he successfully opposed a Bill to set up an oil terminal on Anglesey and in 1975 he sought to change capital transfer tax provisions in order to protect wildlife areas. As a landowner, he was sharply critical of any extension to the rights of what he called "pro-

fessional ramblers". He supported the rights of the Falkland islanders long before most members of the House of Commons were aware of the Argentinian threat. In 1981, moreover, he opposed government policy on Gibraltar, arguing that Gibraltarians should be granted British nationality.

John Farr was born in Nottingham in 1922, and educated at Harrow. In 1940, at the age of 18, he enrolled in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and later fought in the Mediterranean and the South Atlantic, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. After the war he entered the family brewing

firm as executive director. After contesting the unwinnable seat of Ilkeston in 1955, he embarked on his long political career as a victor in the Conservative landslide on 1959.

He was to prove himself an adept parliamentarian, serving on various Select Committees, most importantly that on Standing Orders. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 1972 to 1974, and of the Conservative backbench Agriculture Committee and Northern Ireland Committee. From 1973 until 1978 he was a delegate to

the Western European Union and the Council of Europe. He had a host of other interests, including – as he confessed in 1960 – a penchant for owning racehorses, which lost him money.

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The Royal Opera: no to merger, yes to a new broom



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Act One. Exit (stage left, pursued by snakes) Genista Mcintosh. Enter soubrette Mary Allen, with Lord Chaddington (basso profondo) in close attendance. General confusion. Chorus appears with baskets of five-pound notes. There you have the recent history of Covent Garden — *opera buffa*. But now we have Act Two and a spirited intervention by the new counter-tenor, Chris Smith, provoking amazement in the stalls and choking in the Crush Bar. This week's *deus ex machina* is not the end of the drama. The Culture Secretary has intervened mightily, but the final shape of the reform of the Royal Opera ought to wait for Sir Richard Eyre. He will, we hope, have a lot to say about the organisation of this magnificent hut ob so peculiar art form in the capital.

Mr Smith says the Covent Garden show must not go on. He is absolutely right. Hang the "arm's length" principle. The Royal Opera House has become a drain on public money, which, of course, includes

lottery revenues. If, as a result, it had become exciting and innovative, with the world's directors and artists beating a path to its door, the deficits might have some justification. As it is they are insupportable.

Let's dispense quickly with the idea of spending public money on this form of art needs some special justification. Opera attracts far too much attention — as if it were the only "elitist" activity supported by the state, as if government were not embroiled in all manner of activities that directly benefit a number less than the sum of the British population. London ought to have one stage where work by the world's leading designers and performers — perhaps even composers — can be afforded. There is, admittedly, no ready formula for the scale of public support for grand opera. It is a reasonable rule of thumb that world-class opera can be produced with what the likes of Jeremy Isaacs demand, less 5 or even 10 per cent.

People such as him are the problem.

Covent Garden has been managed by a board of trustees and executives whose record in simple profit-and-loss accounting is miserable. All the talk you hear about a revolution in public management in the vicinity of Drury Lane (admittedly much of it from Thatcherites in charge when the ROH was going to rack and ruin) — forget it. In their arrogance Covent Garden's managers sit in the television cameras, so we know at first hand just what kind of people have been entrusted with running this prettier arts organisation.

So much is common currency. The criticisms were mouthed in Gerald Kaufman's demotic as recently as last week. Now Chris Smith promises revolutionary change. The first task facing Sir Richard Eyre is to repopulate the management of the Royal Opera company to ensure, at the least, that in future it operates within its budget. The ROH recently put on Dennis Marks plan to build an entirely new theatre to house the company. There is surely much more life left in its current

home at the Coliseum, just as there ought to be much more life and vitality left in ENO's formula of English language productions on the cutting edge.

Chris Smith is endearingly keen on bringing opera to the people (which surely ENO's Bayliss programme strives to do, not without success). His ideas about making the companies tour is patronising, he seems to have forgotten the existence in Leeds, Cardiff and Glasgow of first-rate opera companies, let alone the antum circumnavigation of England by Glyndebourne (which offers plenty of lessons about successfully rebuilding a concert hall). Covent Garden ought to be first-rate opera, performed in London, with a proportion of seats at budget price. To achieve that, Mr Smith has to make its management his target. If the positions of existing executives are now untenable, well and good. The arts great and good in this country are not all so great and good as they sometimes like to think.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 343 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Irish president

Sir: As a Protestant citizen of the Irish Republic, I am deeply dismayed by the election of Mary McAleese as our President (report, 1 November) for two reasons in particular.

First, while our government professes to be working for peace in Northern Ireland, it has aggressively promoted an unashamed Northern Irish nationalist for President at a particularly sensitive time, when 40 per cent of Unionists remain outside the peace talks. Ken Maginnis has said that this confirms Unionists in the belief that they cannot do meaningful business with Dublin.

The second reason is that those who voted for Mary McAleese (only 21 per cent of the total electorate, as over 50 per cent abstained) could not, or would not, see through the nonsense of her claiming to "build bridges" to the Unionists, the very people she has strongly criticised over many years while working in Northern Ireland. She has even referred to Northern Ireland in the past as an "archetypal police state". Those who saw through this smokescreen, and still voted for Mary McAleese, frighten me even more, as they are declaring their lack of interest in pluralism and confirm their desire for a Catholic Island for a Catholic nationalist people.

The main opposition candidate, Mary Banotti, is a genuine pluralist of a gentle disposition with an excellent record of public service. British people, with justification, often accuse people in Northern Ireland of living in the past. Sadly, if they have not done so already, they now have justification for including the citizens of the Irish Republic, just at the time when Mary Robinson was trying to show the way to a pluralist future.

ROBIN BURY
Killiney, Co Dublin

Divided Tory party

Sir: Contrary to Michael Heseltine's assertion (report, 3 November), it was the SDP's establishment in 1981 which kept Labour in opposition for 18 years and concentrated its mind on the reforms necessary to get elected.

Those reforms were carried through by strong leadership from Neil Kinnock and



Tony Blair, not by Messrs Callaghan, Healey and Hattersley

Sir: Ten years ago, aged 19, with a group of friends I spent the summer in the United States.

We stayed in various locations: Boston, Virginia, New York; with friends, relatives and some in "live in joke". All of us entered the US armed with a fake ID, which showed us to be over the age of 21. We all used this ID to enter bars illegally.

We stayed out all night, partied, and probably didn't show the required commitment to our paid employment. Many of us may have professed to dislike our employers and indeed our jobs.

Luckily, none of us fell foul of a couple barely 12 years older than ourselves who had forgotten what it was to be a teenager. Luckily, none of us found ourselves in circumstances which, our not being able to explain them, might have indicated our guilt in a fairer system in the workplace.

Woodward trial

Sir: Ten years ago, aged 19, with a group of friends I spent the summer in the United States.

We stayed in various locations: Boston, Virginia, New York; with friends, relatives and some in "live in joke". All of us entered the US armed with a fake ID, which showed us to be over the age of 21. We all used this ID to enter bars illegally.

We stayed out all night, partied, and probably didn't show the required commitment to our paid employment. Many of us may have professed to dislike our employers and indeed our jobs.

Sir: Society need not recognise the dedicated mother only by applauding her for staying at home (Letters, 1 November). It can also recognise her by giving her more support. It can acknowledge its own responsibility to children and their primary carers through reorganisation of the workplace so that carers are not driven to stark choices, and may meet their obligations to both their families and their employers without being exploited. A fairer system in the workplace,

capital crime in many US states. Luckily, none of us were made convenient scapegoats for what may have been a horrible accident or terrible crime.

It is a frightening concept that we must rely on luck rather than justice ("The crowd holds its breath for Louise", 4 November).

EISHLIN PAYNE
Basingstoke, Hampshire

Sir: Society need not recognise the dedicated mother only by applauding her for staying at home (Letters, 1 November). It can also recognise her by giving her more support. It can acknowledge its own responsibility to children and their primary carers through reorganisation of the workplace so that carers are not driven to stark choices, and may meet their obligations to both their families and their employers without being exploited. A fairer system in the workplace,

children will suffer fewer disadvantages.

DR VANESSA MARTIN
Egham, Surrey

Sir: Is the Louise Woodward case really the most important case in the history of the state of Massachusetts? (report, 4 November)? What about the infamous Salem witch trials, or the spectacular cases of Lizzie Borden or the Boston Strangler? Historically surely the 17th century wrangles over the Massachusetts Bay Charter were of greater importance?

GUY EVANS
London SE3

Sir: You claim that the "Boston Massacre" of 1770 involved British colonial soldiers being "slaughtered by the French and their Indian allies" (report, 4 November). Any American schoolchild could tell you that the victims of the Boston Massacre were ordinary citizens of

Boston, shot dead by British "Redcoats" — an outrage that helped to spark the American Revolution.

WILSON MCLEOD
Edinburgh

Sir: The issue of the sinister and very disturbing trend in the US — and increasingly, in Britain — towards seeking someone to blame and sue when anything goes wrong or someone gets hurt should be on trial, instead of Louise Woodward.

C GILLOTT
Leicester

Sir: How amazing to see that the American justice system has become "anachronistic" because of Louise Woodward's guilty verdict. Maybe we should now abolish the ill-instituted trial by jury and install instead of it a system of "fair" trial by the general public plus the media? JOSHUA HONG
Wuppertal, Germany

Business and EMU

Sir: It would seem that business enthusiasm for a single currency is proportional to the size of business — the larger the company the more pro-euro and vice versa (Letters, 3 November).

If a pile of sand 156ft high and a mile across the base (no metric nonsense here) represents UK business, then only the top six feet are firms with more than 20 employees.

Irrespective of the constitutional issues involved there are huge numbers of small and micro-businesses for whom a single currency represents a disproportionate and man-made problem in terms of costs of compliance. The vast bulk of UK businesses (in keeping with the customers that they supply) are far from enthusiastic as far as the euro is concerned. DR BERNARD JUBY
Federation of Small Businesses
London SW1

Curbing the car

Sir: Norman T Shepherd (Letters, 28 October) suggests banning parking at all publicly owned buildings. Why stop there? Banning all non-residential parking, both on and off-street, in our city centres, would be the simplest and most effective means of ridding them of traffic.

ROGER HOUGHTON
Bath

Remembrance Day

Sir: Remembrance Sunday exists to remember and honour everyone that gave their lives in the world wars. Why is it that Peter Tatchell and Co (report, 3 November) feel the need to have a special ceremony to remember homosexuals?

A PLATER
Leeds

Bad news for pedestrians, maybe, but great news for pedants



MILES
KINGTON

The other day I was listening to the fading moments of the Radio 4 programme called *You and Yours*, which contained a fascinating item on cross-channel ferry traffic. What was fascinating about it was that, according to the woman reporter, it is more expensive on some car ferries to cross without a car than with. The particular ferry she was talking about charged something like £100 for a car with driver and all the passengers, but a foot passenger with a bike or just a walking stick would have to pay nearly £200. One man had tried to pay £100 for himself and a Dinky car, but the firm said that a Dinky did not qualify as a car.

"This is bad news for

pedants," concluded the woman gloomily. This remark stopped me in my tracks. Why was it bad news for pedants? Was it bad news for mathematical sticklers whose statistical sense of money would be outraged? Was it bad news for pedants who insisted that a Dinky was a car was a car ...?

Then the light dawned. By pedant she meant "foot passenger". She had got muddled up between "pedant" and "pedestrian". Like someone finishing a difficult crossword clue, I glowed with pride and pleasure at her mistake, and my solution of it ...

And since then I have been mulling over that pleasure and that sun glow, and have come

to the sad conclusion that, like me, I have given them a great deal of pleasure to write in. And why not? It's a simple game, and everyone enjoys it, even the victim, and we would not enjoy playing it half so much if we owned up to our enjoyment. I mean, if I wrote to *You and Yours* about their woman reporter's little slip, I might say, "Dear You (and Yours), I was perturbed to hear you use the word 'pedant' the other day as if it meant 'foot passenger'. How can we maintain correct standards in English if even the BBC fails to 'ete etc etc' But what I really mean is, 'Dear You (and Yours), I was delighted to hear your reporter commit a howler the other day and it gives me great pleasure that they have a chance to correct her.

Please excuse my pedantic fervour, but ... I nearly wrote to the *Radio Times* the other day on a similar mission. They had a listing for the edition of Radio 4's *Loose Ends* which marked the 75th anniversary of the Beeb, saying that the programme would be presented by "Ned Sherbin". Considering that the only person who ever presents it is Ned Sherrin, I found this a little odd. Either he had been replaced by a man with a very similar name, which was unlikely, or someone had made me look up 'dour' in the dictionary and apparently the Scottish pronunciation rhyming with "fewer" which I am used to is not universal, and it can also be pronounced "dour". Mark you, I also wanted to protest against the massive

overuse of the word "icon" which can now be used to refer to anything from a good footballer to, well, a new art gallery in Bilbao, and therefore means very little at all, but in the upshot I never wrote at all, and quite right too.

Anyway, just to show that pedantry is not entirely a wasted activity, there is one very clear lesson coming out of all this, and that is if you want to do money, all you have to do is open depots at selected channel ports selling wrecks cars for a few quid each to

pedestrians embarking on channel crossings and thus enable them to save a lot of money. Especially as they will have the pleasure of leaving the car on the boat at the other end.

Here are
HANNAH
MCRAE
TELEVISION
THE FUTURE

The future ...
years to come
An old
field has
new houses
research
station
etc
drone
change our
for weeks
these new
and
customers
Some
World techn

Yes, the middle classes will have to be squeezed



ANDREW MARR
BRIDGING THE SOCIAL DIVIDE

All around him, his enemies lie vanquished and scattered. To the right, the once mighty Tory party has only its mutual loathing over Europe to hold it together. To the left, there is nothing. His MPs are so silent and disciplined that Parliament, once a kettle drum of gossip and argument, has become a silent political shell. His ministers are hard-working, abstemious and loyal. Overseas, he is revered. At home, the unemployment queues are swelled by despairing satirists. Was ever a modern Prime Minister so favoured by fortune?

Yet this ease is nervous; and rightly. For the full force and sweep of the Blair project has yet to be understood by the country. When it is, there will be many who dislike it, and politics as normal will slowly resurface. The election was overwhelming. But the real battle has barely begun.

What is the Blair project? It is in co-operation very simple, though rarely expressed simply. It is to persuade the middle-class majority to pay more for our services – whether in education, social services, health, water or social services – without paying less taxation in total. The surplus is spent reclaiming the poor and jobless, mainly through education, and so closing the modern Two Nations divide.

This puts the Thatcher Revolution at the service of social democratic morality. She believed in making people more independent of the state, in encouraging private provision for health, pensions and education. So does Blair. But there is a difference. Her rhetoric suggested that this process would result in an ever-smaller state and lower taxes; he suggests that its purpose is philanthropic. The middle-class sacrifice is moral.

And many will resent it no less for that. Students, and people with children about to go to university or college, know what Blairism means at the sharp end. But it is only the beginning. The row over tuition fees will be followed by new and worse rows in the years to come, over hotel-style charges in hospitals; higher drugs bills for the better-off; water-meters, road-pricing; and perhaps expensive compulsory insurance.

People who complained during the Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher and Major years about the tax cost of state services will find the experience of digging into their wallets for private provision at least as painful. Instead of raising taxes directly, this government will, in effect, privatise the extra impost. Will the people buy it?

That depends not on Blair's political rhetoric, but on whether he and Gordon Brown spend wisely. These are philanthropic islands. People give time and money to charity. But they want the money to be well used.

The tax revolt happened not just because of the sheer level of taxes before Thatcher, but also – more importantly – because she persuaded taxpayers that most of their sacrifice was wasted.

So if the Blair project is to work, then millions of people will have to be convinced that it is efficient. Will, for example, people be well trained in useful skills which actually get them jobs? Will that mean lower unemployment bills, less crime and greater social harmony? Keeping the middle classes on side will also mean being tough with the recipients of state help, and the people who deliver it. Confrontations are almost inevitable.

In fact, if you tot up all the people Blair will have to confront to some degree in order to create his fairer society, it's a pretty impressive list. There will be middle-class anger at "having to pay more for everything". Unless the Conservative Party is terminally incompetent, it will all be stoked up by the Tories, and blamed on Blair's "ideological Euroscepticism". Meanwhile, on the other side, there will producer and union anger at constant efficiency drives.

I don't mean to sound pessimistic. It will only mean ordinary politics has returned. Any democratic government which wishes to change the country, particularly in a way which benefits millions of excluded people, is bound to create enemies both to the left and the right. If Blair is to be a great leader, then these are necessary confrontations. The prize, too, is great: a country freed of its large penumbra of under-employed and poor, yet without huge national debt. It is a vision worth the fight.

Nevertheless, that fight is likely to come at a time when the country is already feeling uneasy – when the familiar currency looks as if it is on the way out, and when the English are irritated by the puffy-chested Scottish Parliament, and when the economic cycle is dipping rather than rising. New Labour's popularity billowed up with almost magical speed; it could fall just as fast.

This explains, I think, the interesting lack of cheesy self-congratulation in Downing Street, and why Blair is continuing to try and expand his already huge circle of support.

If the Liberal Democrats, the pro-European business leaders and even Tory moderates are all in tacit alliance, then it will be easier to withstand the storm that will, eventually, arrive. There is plenty of hypocrisy and sycophancy among the new converts to Blairism; but there is quite a lot of real enthusiasm and idealism there too.

This reformist alliance needs some brave decisions by others. The Liberal Democrats, for instance, have an historic choice ahead of them. Should they form a libertarian or leftist opposition against Blair, or go further into alliance with him? Both choices are dangerous. Returning to opposition would mean turning their back on most of what they believe in, for the benefit of being distinctive, but marginal. (Not a great bargain, I'd have thought.) Going deeper in means taking the risk of being stilled to death in a cuddly, hairy-blairy hug, while hoping to push the Government further towards political reform than it would otherwise go.

But they, like the rest of us, will have to decide whether the Blair project is worth supporting all the way. It is easy to back it now, when it is still illuminated by the glow of the election, and the enemies are scattered. But two predictions are safe. First, real politics will return. Second, the Prime Minister will find out who his real friends are only once it does.



Photograph: Reuters

Another candle in the wind



SUZANNE MOORE
THE POLITICS OF EMOTION

A child is lost and must be brought home safely. Other children as young as six are "campaining" on her behalf, lighting candles, wearing yellow ribbons, hoping with all their little hearts that Louise can come home. "She's the light of our life," says *The Sun*, underneath a picture of "anxious youngsters". Much of the country appears to be involved in this giant rescue fantasy. We can save Louise Woodward. We can rescue her from a life in a petrifying American prison. We can teach the Americans a thing or two about justice.

The reality is that a child has been lost and can never be rescued. Matty Eappen is dead and cannot be brought back to life by any kind of public outcry. Yet dead babies, despite our supposed love of children, do not evoke that much public sympathy. They are not fully formed. They cannot speak up for themselves. They are at times intensely annoying and frustrating. The great unspoken truth, central to this whole

sorry case, is that babies can invoke absolute feelings of love and of hate, of joy and of rage. It is not so difficult to imagine shaking a baby, dropping a baby, being too rough with a baby whether you are its paid carer or its parent. Yet babies are completely innocent aren't they? They do not know what they are doing. They cannot help themselves.

It seems to me that many of our complicated feelings about infants have been transferred on to Louise Woodward herself. She has become entirely infantilised through the media coverage of her trial. She may in fact be a rather sullen young woman but she is spoken of as a little girl lost. This is why she must be fought by both sides as entirely innocent or entirely guilty.

Like many others I feel that Woodward should not serve 15 years in an American prison because she is not a danger to society. Yet I cannot believe that anyone involved in this case is completely innocent. The point is that she does not have to be completely innocent in order for us to think that the murder verdict is wrong.

Various suggestions have been made as to what would have got Louise off. She should have been prettier, blonder, more like a cheerleader, she should have been chattier, more tearful and shown more emotion. The howl of incomprehension she gave when found guilty was surely enough emotion for most. Indeed the extraordinary campaigns to have her released in this country and now in America, with their candles, flowers and the creation of instant communities of feeling are part of the new

"politics of emotion" that was both rubbish and celebrated at the time of Diana's death.

The intensity of the reaction to Diana's death has left a kind of vacuum. Despite their sadness, many people feel somehow more alive than they had for some time, part of a collective that had for so long been denied. This was dismissed as hysteria by those for whom an essential display of emotion is especially inauthentic.

I felt then and I still do that what was expressed was a genuine articulation of loss, that it was both sincere and sensational at the same time.

The candlelit vigils to free Louise Woodward are in some way connected to this post-Diana mood. "The cult of intimacy," which Christopher Lasch wrote of in *The Culture of Narcissism*, is in full swing. We have been encouraged to feel intimate enough with Woodward to call her only Louise. Unlike the vigils for Diana, these vigils are intended to make something happen. This is emotional activism of a new kind.

Just this morning another leaflet from Amnesty popped through my letterbox. It detailed yet again more stories of torture, of mutilation and cruelty so horrific that I could hardly bear to read it. Innocent people are imprisoned and maimed every day of the year and no one does much about it.

Woodward's case, however, brings together a number of concerns that obviously have huge emotional resonance – the issue of childcare, of who is actually responsible for children, the residual anti-Americanism of Britain, the TV drama of a real-life courtroom scenes, the

clamoring for victim status, the fate of the working woman, the Oprahification of all culture.

Certainly the scenes in Elton,

Woodward's village, of people

crying and shouting and hug-

ing each other reminds us

that the image of the British as

a cold and unemotional people

has finally been laid to rest.

These people with their vis-

ible outrage understand that the

visibility of emotions is a cru-

cial aspect of this case. The new

"politics of emotion", which

Tony Blair surfs so expertly,

means that emotion has to be

seen to be shown rather than

merely felt. There were a num-

ber of points in this case, in

which this view was expressed.

Deborah Eappen told us that

Louise Woodward didn't look

like a child abuser. Well, what

do child abusers look like?

The Eappens themselves, with

their glazed American senti-

ments, were also said not to

have shown enough grief. What

does enough grief look like?

It is no coincidence that

such strong feeling should sur-

round this young British

woman abroad and that it

should involve children. The

mood of the country, post-

Diana, has been described as

"feminised", in that we are all

much more in touch with our

emotions than before. Ex-

pressing one's feelings has be-

come an end in itself. Yet

expressing one's feelings is not

the same as understanding

them, as being emotionally liter-

ate to use the psychopolitical

jargon. We have some way to

go in this direction.

Our reaction to the Wood-

ward case means that a huge

amount of feeling is being ex-

pressed about an injustice that

has been seen to be done. Un-

fortunately, though, the com-

licated feelings that this case

forces to the surface have been

pushed down in the over-

whelmingly simplistic demand

for Louise to be found "innocent". It is as if the ugly details of this case can all be tied up with a giant yellow ribbon, that come "judgment day", mercy

will be shown, that a missing

child will be returned safe and

sound into the arms of loving

parents. But it is already too late

for that. A child has gone.

Louise Woodward is not that

child, however much we try and

make her into it.

This case is full of "reasonable doubt". To replace it with

passionate certainty is another

kind of denial. In this new age

of emotional openness, admitting

that the lines between in-

nocence and guilt are not

always as clear as we want

them to be is still difficult. So,

too, is acknowledging that feel-

ing is not the same as knowing

and that there are times when,

however much we might feel we

know, the truth is that we ac-

tually don't.

Bulgaria in Crisis

BBC launches Appeal

LEFT TO FREEZE

Yordan, 12, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.

No Money To Feed The Children

No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages.

Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter.

Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The

Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency

food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need.

Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

• £22 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children

survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £ _____ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust. Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card

Card no. _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Marks & Spencer to spend £2.1 bn on global expansion

Marks & Spencer unveiled the most aggressive expansion programme in its history yesterday with plans to invest £2.1 bn over the next three years as it aims to build a global business.

It will create 5,000 jobs in Britain this year in the process. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a new mood at Britain's most profitable retailer.

The expansion will see M&S increase its retail selling space by 30 per cent over the next three years. In the UK it will open up to 20 more neighbourhood stores specialising in its food ranges to take the total to 35 outlets.

As it integrates the 19 stores bought from Littlewoods for £192.5m in the summer, M&S will reopen some as stand-alone menswear, ladieswear and home furnishings outlets though the precise locations have not been revealed.

With additional branches opening across Europe, the Far East and the Middle East, Sir Richard Greenbury, the M&S chairman, said the company was entering a new phase.

"We are entering a period of accelerated footfall and product expansion in the UK and overseas, so by the year 2000 we will be well on our way to establishing a global business," he said.

The proportion of sales M&S derives from overseas is expected to increase from the current 17 per cent to more than 25 per cent by the end of the decade.

In the City, analysts welcomed the move though they added a note of caution. John Richards, at NatWest Securities, said: "It is a step up in the underlying rate of physical growth but people shouldn't get too carried away. This kind of overseas expansion carries with it higher risk." M&S shares fell 10p to 600p on the news.

In the UK, where M&S has 286 stores, the company will open its largest branch

in the world in Manchester in the next two years along with branches at Cribbs Causeway, Bristol and Bluewater Park in Kent.

A new branch in the City of London is planned for the corner of Gracechurch Street and Fenchurch Street.

A big development of its food operations is also planned. This will see the number of in-store butchers rise from 40 to 100, the number of bakers increase from three to 50 and the opening of its first six full-service delicatessen counters next April.

However, Sir Richard dismissed speculation that M&S was planning a head-to-head challenge to the major supermarkets: "The best thing I can say about that is that it is absolute nonsense. We would want our head examined."

He said a typical M&S food hall carried 2,000 to 2,500 lines compared with more than 20,000 in a branch of Tesco or Sainsbury's.

M&S will continue to concentrate on its added-value speciality foods, such as ready-made meals, where its market share is more than 50 per cent, and hot pies, where it has more than 30 per cent of the market.

In Europe, M&S has opened its first store in Germany in Cologne and has since acquired a further four sites.

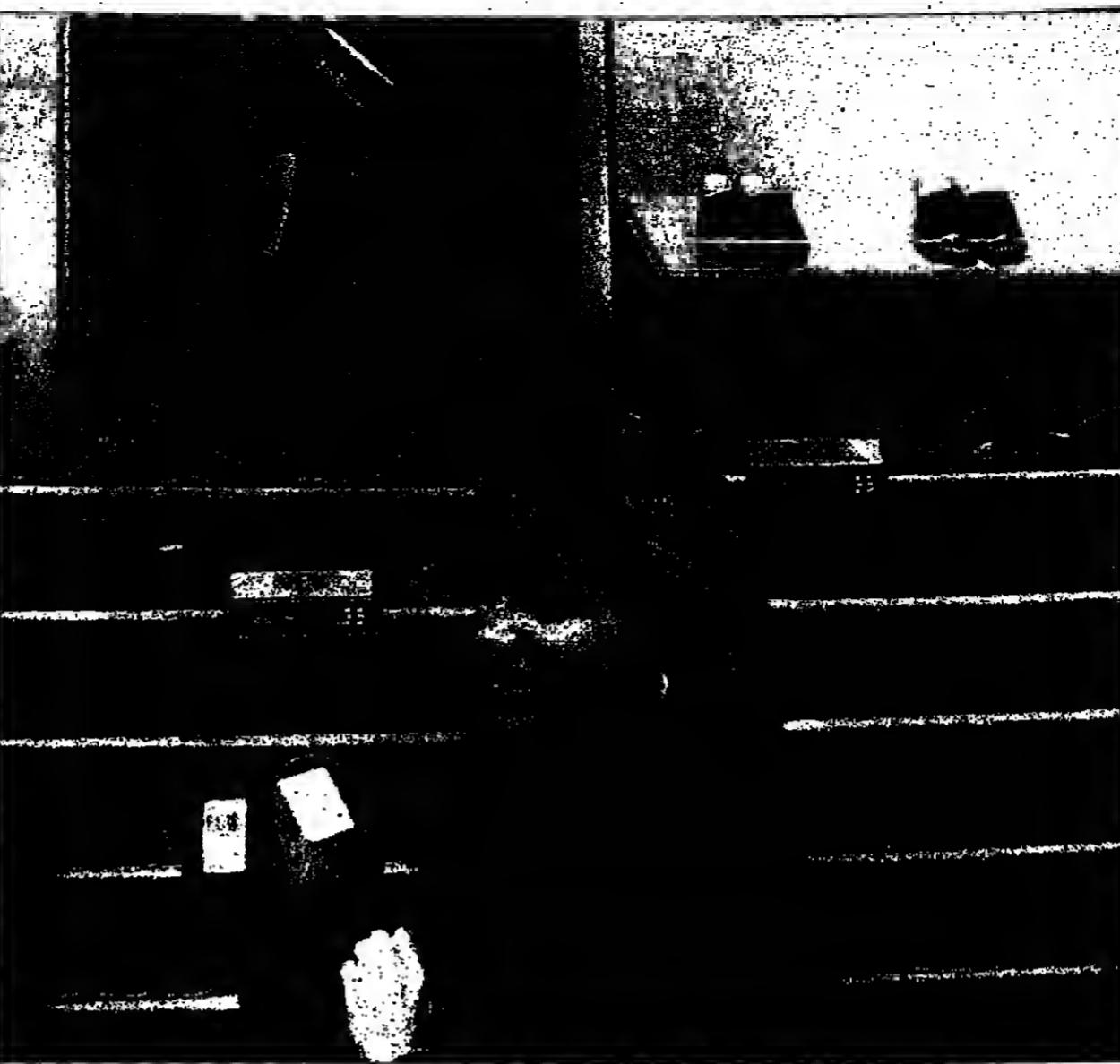
This, together with planned expansion mainly in France and Spain, will increase the retail space in Europe by more than 1 million square feet.

Sir Richard said there were 20 to 25 sites in Germany that the company would like to open now if suitable locations could be found and planning permission won.

In the Far East, the company has opened its 10th store in Hong Kong though this market has been affected by the volatility of the financial markets and the slowdown.

Tourism was down by one-third, Sir Richard said, with hotel occupancy running at only 60 per cent.

M&S is looking at mainland China, where it is continuing negotiations on store openings with the Chinese authorities. It is also looking at Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.



Strong sales of footwear helped boost Marks & Spencer's UK profits by 6 per cent

Photograph: Rui Xavier

M&S is looking again at the entering the Japanese market, which is the second-largest clothing market in the world.

Property prices have tumbled since M&S decided against opening stores in Japan two years ago.

Brooks Brothers, the US clothing group acquired by M&S in the 1980s, is being taken into the Far East with a joint venture partner. Sir Richard said he would like to bring the stores to the UK, particularly London, though there were no current plans.

The £2.1bn of investment will include a major information technology programme. This will see a new till system rolled out across the entire chain. The new

tills can accept a range of currencies, including the euro.

Sir Richard was speaking as M&S reported a 5.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £452.3m in the six months to September.

The profits were affected by a £10m cost caused by the Budget's changes to pension scheme funding. The half-day closure for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, knocked £20m off sales.

UK profits rose by 6 per cent to £296.7m, helped by strong sales of clothing, footwear and gifts and an 11 per cent rise in home furnishings sales.

Food sales increased by just 2.3 per cent. In America, Brooks Brothers record-

ed a profit of £2.3m on sales of £145.9m. The financial services operation increased profits from £33.2m to £37.5m in the period.

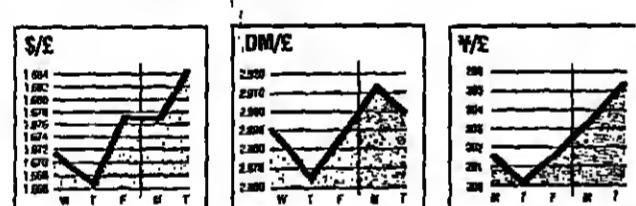
Group sales were 6 per cent ahead at £3.7bn. The interim dividend was increased by 9.1 per cent to 3.6p per share.

In Europe, profits fell from £11.3m to £9.4m. The company said it expected the French lorry drivers dispute to cause further disruption. M&S is now the largest commercial user of the Channel Tunnel.

In the Far East, profits fell from £13.4m to £10.8m. The company said it had been affected by the turmoil in the currency markets.

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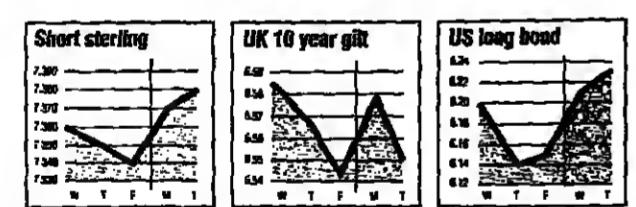
STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones Index and graphs to 5pm

Indices	Class	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4897.40	-9.00	-0.18	5330.80	3900.40	3.56
FTSE 250	4574.80	11.20	0.24	4963.80	4248.10	3.47
FTSE 350	2365.10	-2.30	-0.10	2555.30	1949.20	3.54
FTSE All Share	2318.92	-2.06	-0.08	2402.41	1925.79	3.52
FTSE SmallCap	2221.7	1.50	0.07	2406.20	2128.40	3.24
FTSE MidCap	1271.3	3.60	0.28	1346.50	1198.70	3.35
FTSE AIM	991.5	2.10	0.21	1138.00	966.90	1.04
Dow Jones	7860.89	-10.32	-0.13	8259.31	6041.68	1.75
Nikkei	16500.10	-41.16	-0.25	21460.57	15082.32	0.92
Hong Kong	10780.78	-47.33	-0.43	16820.31	9725.88	3.88
Dax	3812.45	-41.62	-1.08	4436.93	2971.88	2.08

INTEREST RATES

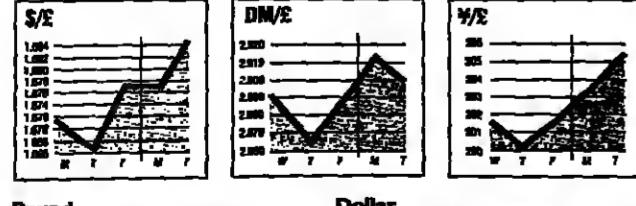


Money Market Rates	Bond Yields
3 month	1 year
UK	7.38
US	5.75
Japan	0.53
Germany	3.69
1 year	5 year
UK	7.58
US	5.94
Japan	0.56
Germany	4.08
10 year	30 year
UK	14.00
US	12.50
Japan	3.60
Germany	7.00

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rates	Price (p)	Chg (p)	5. Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	5. Chg
Next	734.00	-47.00	-8.84		HSBC Hedge	1410.00	-10.00
Bloomberg	582.50	-27.50	-4.61		HSBC Hedge	573.00	-37.00
Sumitomo	382.00	-17.00	-4.68		Sumitomo	676.00	-28.00
Sumitomo	602.00	-17.00	-4.13		Relay	498	-17

CURRENCIES



source: Bloomberg

OTHER INDICATORS

Class	Chg	Tr. Age	Index	Chg	Tr. Age	Index	
Brent Oil (\$)	19.22	-0.05	21.55	GDP	114.00	-3.90	109.7
D-Mark (\$)	2.6889	-1.01	2.5023	D-Mark	1.7225	-1.12	1.5077
Yen (\$)	205.42	+2.59	187.13	Yen	121.95	+0.99	113.86
E. Index	102.90	+0.50	91.20	S. Index	104.50	+0.20	97.00

source: Bloomberg

Botnar to return as warrants lifted

Octav Botnar, the founder of Nissan UK, is to return to Britain following the Inland Revenue's decision yesterday to withdraw two arrest warrants issued on charges of cheating the authorities out of £300m in tax revenues. Michael Harrison reports on the latest twist in an extraordinary six-year legal wrangle.

Associates of Mr Botnar said yesterday that it was the intention of the 84-year-old millionaire to return to Britain to visit the grave of his daughter Camelia, even though his health is now said to be in a "perilous state".

This emerged as Mr Botnar, who has been forced to live as a "fugitive from justice" in Switzerland since 1992, hit out in a blistering attack on the Revenue's long and dogged pursuit of him.

One adviser said: "He has still got the brains and the energy even though his body may be failing apart. He has not seen his daughter's grave in five years and quite apart from

that there are a lot of people who would like to see him back. I don't think he will be short of invitations to return."

In an application yesterday to magistrates in Worthing, the former home of Nissan UK's headquarters, the Revenue said it was withdrawing the arrest warrants on medical advice after studying a doctor's report. Counsel for the Revenue said: "It is clear from these reports that Mr Botnar would be unlikely to survive a long criminal hearing."

The development brings to an end the six-year battle between Mr Botnar and the taxmen that began in June, 1991 when 135 Inland Revenue officers launched an unprecedented raid on the home and offices of Mr Botnar, Nissan UK, and its auditors and tax advisers accompanied by television cameras.

The raid led to charges that several Nissan UK executives, including Mr Botnar, had cheated the Revenue out of millions of pounds by falsely inflating the prices they were paying to import Nissan cars from Japan, declaring lower profits and evading corporation tax. Two arrest warrants were issued in 1992 and 1995 and two other Nissan executives were subsequently tried and imprisoned.

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Mr Botnar, who has always denied the charges, agreed to pay the Revenue £59m last year to settle its corporation tax claim against the company.

Mr Botnar dismissed the Revenue's explanation for withdrawing the arrest warrants and claimed the real reason for his action was to avoid appearing in court for a two day hearing scheduled to begin on 19 November.

"These excuses do not bear

examination. The Revenue has known for four and a half years of the perilous state of my health, following surgery for the removal of my entire stomach in 1993."

Mr Botnar, who has lived since 1992 in Villars, in the Swiss Alps, said the Revenue knew it never had any chance of prosecuting him but had maintained the warrants to put pressure on him to agree to a further financial settlement.

Under the review of accounting policy by BP is the clearest indication yet of the way British businesses are moving towards the single currency regardless of the Government's policy.

27/BUSINESS

People lose thousands of pounds after pulling out of pension plans early

Damning evidence has emerged to show that hundreds of thousands of people who pay regularly into personal pensions risk losing thousands of pounds each when they halt contributions, writes Andrew Verity.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the financial regulator, yesterday released figures showing that more than one-third of all people who bought regular-premium pensions from life insurance sales people stopped paying contributions within three years.

The figures show many of the UK's biggest names, including Lincoln, Allied Dunbar, Guardian Financial Services, Black Horse Life and Barclays Life, have even poorer so-

called "lapse rates". Separate research by Alan Lakey, an independent financial adviser writing for *Money Management* magazine, shows that many of those who lapse their policies early risk losing out because of heavy initial charges. He said yesterday: "No wonder the public places such little trust in the industry."

The PIA figures show that, after three years, 45 per cent of all regular premiums going into Lincoln's pensions have stopped. After two years, 30 per cent have lapsed their policies. Joe Palmer, chairman of the PIA, said: "Persistence is an important indicator of the quality of business that a firm has transacted. Although these results show that progress has been made, the industry will need to work very hard to reduce the lapse rate and regulators will be paying particular attention to the weaker performers."

Personal pensions sold by company representatives

	(Regular premium)	
Business Year:	1994	1993
Persistence Term:	2yr	3yr
Abbey Life	77.3	87.5
Abbey National Life	70.9	64.7
Albany Life	67.2	56.8
Allied Dunbar	76.2	68.3
AXA Equity & Law	78.0	70.8
Barclays Life	69.1	59.8
Black Horse Life	71.5	62.8
Britannia Life	92.5	87.0
Britannic Assurance	64.1	56.4
Combined Life	65.2	59.4
Commercial Union	76.7	68.4
Co-operative Insurance Society	78.2	70.0
Eagle Star Life	77.0	64.5
Friends Provident	79.6	67.8
GAM Life & Pensions	78.1	70.0
General Accident Life	81.7	75.3
Guardian Financial Services	65.2	55.2
Hambro Assured	69.4	60.0
J Rothschild	84.4	78.0
Legal & General	75.0	64.4
Lincoln	69.6	55.7
London & Manchester Assurance	74.2	63.4
MGM Assurance	69.2	58.4
Midland Life	76.7	68.4
Natwest Life	76.2	67.4
Norwich Union	73.9	63.5
Pearl	75.6	68.8
Provident Mutual	76.4	69.4
Refugee Life	74.6	65.2
Reliance Mutual	66.7	56.4
Royal & Sun Alliance	69.5	58.0
Royal London Insurance	73.2	62.9
Sav & Prosper	71.5	67.8
Scottish Amicable	87.4	63.4
Scottish Widows Fund	63.8	74.7
Standard Life	89.9	68.0
Sun Life	74.1	58.9
Sun Life of Canada	79.5	78.3
United Friendly Insurance	66.5	56.6
Wesleyan Assurance Society	70.1	62.7

Source: Personal Investment Authority

Among the worst lapse rates identified in the PIA report, *Guardian Financial Services*, part of the insurance giant GRE, has a persistency rate of 64 per cent.

Norwich Union, which recently floated on the stock market, is marginally above average over three years, with 67 per cent still paying into its plans. *Legal & General*, where Mr Palmer was chief executive until joining the PIA, barely rates 64 per cent. Among the best companies are *Standard Life*, with an 88 per cent persistency rate, and *Scottish Amicable*, with 83 per cent.

Mr Lakey's research shows that those who do lapse their policies with Lincoln receive a poor return because of the way the company extracts its charges. After two years of paying £200 a month - a total of £4,800 - their pension would be worth just £1,346, even assuming annual growth of 9 per cent for each year.

The research shows that if left to grow over the next 28 years, the plan would be worth only £8,127, less than one-third of what it would be worth with the average company.

Lincoln said it had changed the way it extracted charges from its pension contract so there were no penalties for stopping and starting payments. However it has no plans to rectify the situation for past policyholders.

A Lincoln spokesman said: "The persistency of our policies is low because we allow people to switch policies and because we have made a number of acquisitions in the last few years, such as *Laurentian*.

"Many said they would go back into our policies if they had the opportunity."

According to Mr Lakey's analysis, first published in *Money Management*, Allied Dunbar shows the worst value for money when policyholders lapse after paying in for five years.

Despite five years of paying £200 a month, holders of a regular-premium personal pension will have just £9,149 in their pension fund after investing £12,000.

A spokesman for Allied Dunbar said: "Our financial advisers always say that a pension is a medium to long-term investment. We will strenuously push that point in our sales documents."



Margaret Beckett: Remit from PM to stop subsidy-bid wars by regions. Photograph: Brian Harris

DTI to vet UK inward investment projects

Tony Blair has authorised the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, to take charge of the way Britain attracts inward investment projects in order to stop subsidy-bidding wars between rival regions of the country.

The Prime Minister has become increasingly concerned that taxpayers are not getting value for money because different areas of the country compete for the same projects, resulting in inward investors being offered bigger financial incentives and aid packages than would otherwise be the case.

Mr Blair's intervention was disclosed yesterday by Mrs Beckett in evidence to the Commons' Trade and Industry Select Committee. She told MPs that the Prime Minister had ap-

proved a so-called concordat under which all bids for inward investment projects would be vetted by the industrial development unit of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Britain has historically been by far the most successful country in Europe at attracting inward investment. About one-third of all inward investment into the European Union has come to the UK, safeguarding or creating some 900,000 jobs since 1979. At the end of last year, Britain's stock of inward investment stood at £150bn with more than £100bn of that having been committed in the last 10 years.

Among the biggest projects secured by Britain are the Nissan and Toyota car plants and £1bn plus investments in the north east by Siemens of Germany and the Korean

electronics group Samsung.

However, the sheer degree of rivalry to win projects, particularly between the Welsh and Scottish development agencies, has led to subsidy levels being bid upwards significantly. Henceforth, all "indicative offers" of support will have to be cleared by the DTI although the vetting body will include representatives from the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland departments.

In a wide-ranging session with the Committee, Mrs Beckett also indicated that the Government was unlikely to step in directly to help Britain's coal industry from further decline. The industry, led by RJB Mining, is calling on the Government to halt any further gas-fired power stations.

— Michael Horrison

BAM fined £50,000 by Imro

A subsidiary of Banque Nationale de Paris was yesterday fined £50,000, ordered to pay compensation of £502,000 to 24 customers and costs of £47,850 because it failed to control a fund manager who dealt with an authorisation after arranging a new issue of shares.

Baii Asset Management (BAM), which is based in Piccadilly, London, accepted charges that it had failed in its internal organisation and did not have effective procedures to record all information on its customers.

Imro, the fund manager, announced that BAM had failed to supervise a fund manager who dealt in the secondary market of a new share issue in August 1995. BAM had failed to document a limit placed on the level of dealing the fund manager was allowed to undertake.

Imro said BAM had failed to ensure customers knew the risks of the investments it was making and also failed to secure proper agreements with four of its customers. It had also failed to keep records of important facts about its private customers as soon as it became aware of them.

Omar John Khayat, a former employee of the BNP subsidiary, Baii Asset Management, was yesterday expelled from membership of Imro.

Imro issued a separate statement saying Mr Khayat had misrepresented himself to his manager and other BAM staff and misrepresented how much dealing he undertook. He had claimed deals had reported late when they had not, delaying the processing of deal tickets.

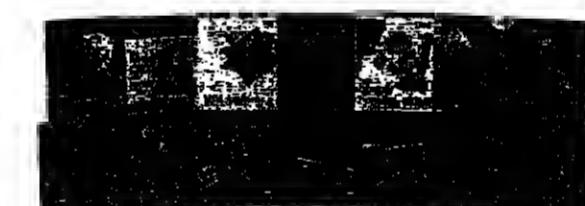
Mr Khayat also dealt over his own firm's limit in the share issue. He allocated shares acquired on behalf of BAM customers without following procedure.

"As a result of the above, Imro does not consider Mr Khayat to be fit and proper to act as a registered individual," the statement said.

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• 24 speed MAX LG CD-ROM drive
• Creative Labs 3D wavetable sound
• 14" SVGA 0.28dp screen (15" E70
+VAT = £82.25 extra; 17" E70
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• 8Mb AGP ATI Rage Pro 3D graphics
• 24 speed MAX LG CD-ROM drive
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From the darkest day for British athletics comes the prospect of a new dawn

Behind the grim news of yesterday's sackings at the British Athletic Federation the prospects are bright. Mike Rowbottom, Athletics Correspondent, discovers some reasons for the sport to be cheerful in the long term.

The blood on the carpet at the British Athletic Federation yesterday - 21 employees sacked in the aftermath of the federation's financial collapse - generated much regret but little surprise.

Since the BAF called in the administrators three weeks ago, casualties have appeared inevitable. It emerged simultaneously, however, that help may be at hand

in the form of the Amateur Athletic Association, the ancient English body whose intransigence has been partly responsible for the fall of the organisation in nominal charge of the whole sport.

In the long term, too - dare one say it - there is hope of better things to come for British athletics. If and when the BAF is finally wound up, its successor is likely to be operating in a far less cluttered landscape.

What has happened was not planned, you only had to look in the eyes of the BAF's newly appointed chief executive, Dave Moorcroft, last month to see that. But it could yet turn out well. The Gordian knot has been cut, and all the tangled arguments about how to get rid of the archaic BAF Council structure have dropped away.

Among those proceeding with hope is Roger Black, Britain's team captain. Despite the fact that he, in common with other top athletes, is owed many thousands of pounds by the BAF for this year's appearances, he has rallied the athletes behind Moorcroft.

In his position as a founder of the British Athletes' Association, Black has seen the BAF's struggles from the inside in the last 18 months. And he has a clear vision of what the ideal set-up should be.

"The BAF should be run by four people. A chief executive, which would be David Moorcroft, a financial director, a commercial director who could liaise with TV to make sure they were getting value for money, and a performance director, whose sole job is to direct the sport and look after the elite Lottery-funded athletes. The BAF tried to do it all. You can't."

There are plans to form a small team based around Moorcroft which will create a new organisation to administer British athletics. The funding for such a team is likely to come from Sports Council funds.

the events at a profit and give the BAF a share as the leaseholder. The structure of the BAF management board and council meant that big decisions could not be made quickly, as they need to be business.

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The AAA initiative in the wake of yesterday's dismissals offers real hope for a more positive atmosphere within British athletics. Even before the BAF called in the administrators, it had been agreed that the AAA would take on a more active role in developing the sport in England. This is keen to do.

Just as importantly, for the first time in years, all factions of the sport agree about something: Moorcroft is the right man to lead British athletics.

The bad feeling between the AAA and the previous man in charge of the BAF, Peter Radford, made it virtually impossible for the sport to move forward in steps. Many grudges remain. But the crisis has shaken those within the sport to act as they have never done before.



John Hart, the New Zealand coach, takes his team through their first coaching session yesterday since their arrival in England. The All Blacks trained at Windsor in preparation for the first game of their nine-match tour against Llanelli at Stradey Park on Saturday. During their practice sessions, Hart throws a plastic dice to decide which training routine the team should follow next.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hooker Walters making the most of 'grandfather' role

The Walters brothers have been a major part of Australian sides in recent years.

Dave Hodfield meets the elder statesman who is unexpectedly extending that era in the Test series against Great Britain.



Steve Walters: Reserve hooker to Wembley hero
Photograph: Epics

In the annals of the game's fluctuating fortunes, Steve Walters has just pulled off the greatest comeback since Lazarus. That is the biblical Lazarus, not Walters' former Canberra and Australia team-mate, Glen Lazarus, and to rise from reserve grade for the bottom team in the competition to hook once more for his country does almost amount to returning from the dead.

At 32, Walters is, along with the equally venerable Andrew Ettighausen, the grandfather of a young and largely inexperienced Australian squad.

It was hardly a role he could have expected to play after his season back home. After 11 successful years at Canberra, Walters moved to the North Queensland Cowboys. Far from making the anticipated rapid improvement under the former Canberra coach, Tim Sheens, the Cowboys finished last.

Walters' own form was ordinary enough for Sheens to threaten him with a stint in the reserves and, at the end of the season, after uncharacteristically missing a training session, he suffered that indignity.

"I did find it harder than I expected being at a new club," he said. "I'd probably been spoilt all those years at Canberra."

Not surprisingly, the Australian selectors were hardly hard-tiring his door down, leaving him out of both internationals earlier this year. With young hookers such as Craig Gower and Luke Pridde - both this trip - coming through strongly it seemed that Walters' distinguished Test career was over.

After defeat by New Zealand the value of experienced players such as Walters and Ettighausen - who also missed that match - was underlined. When the tour party for England was named, the current reserve grade hooker from the lowest placed side in Australian Super League was in it.

"I couldn't expect to be here after the up and down sort of year I'd had," Walters said. "I was just happy to be picked, but now that I'm back in the Test team, I want to do enough to stay there."

Referee upsets Goodway

The Great Britain coach, Andy Goodway, has criticised the approach of the New Zealand referee Phil Houston in the lead up to last Saturday's first Test.

Goodway said Houston had turned down his request for a meeting to discuss interpretations of rules before the match and clearly believes that the official's handling of the play-bait favoured the Australians in their convincing victory.

Disagreements around this area between the two countries are nothing new, but Goodway's Australian counterpart, John Lang, said: "I thought they interfered with play more than us."

"There were times when both sides could have been penalised, but I would dispute any

made the tour if he'd been available, because he's such a talented player and he covers so many positions."

Kevin, usually a stand-off with the Brisbane Broncos, dropped out because his wife is ill or he might have been the Walters wearing the hooker's jersey. Instead, Steve is left to uphold the family honour - the second Test is at Old Trafford on Saturday - and all the signs are that there is still more than enough life left in him to do so.

"I felt a bit rusty in the first few minutes at Wembley, probably because I haven't played for seven weeks," he said, but his performance delighted his coach, John Lang.

Lang, an accomplished Test hooker himself in his playing days, has a soft spot for other practitioners of the art. "Steve Walters showed that he is still right up there," he said after Australia's comprehensive victory. "It gave me a bit of a buzz to see him play so well, because I regard him as one of our all-time great hookers."

Walters is wary of the competition from inside and outside the Australian squad. "Craig Gower prefers hooker to half-back and he's got 13 years on me," he said thoughtfully. "Then there's Luke Pridde, who was my deputy at Canberra. He probably had some effect on them letting me go."

Walters has also faced the challenge from British hookers from Marin Dermott onwards. "I haven't played against James Lowes before, but he's probably closest to my style. No, he's probably got a bit more skill with the ball than me. I tend to just see a gap and run."

He makes that sound simple, but even in the twilight of his career nobody does it better.

RUGBY UNION

Bristol prepare to sell in order to survive

Struggling Bristol, down on their uppers after years of shambolic mismanagement and an embarrassing haemorrhage of international-class players, are preparing to play their most valuable card in an effort to wipe out the £2.2m debt that threatens to drive them into bankruptcy.

Shareholders have been told that one of the club's prime assets, the Combination Ground in the Filton area of the city, may soon be placed on the open

market. The 25-acre site, currently used to house Bristol's thriving mini and junior teams along with a local club side, would be worth several millions as development land and a successful sale would clear the decks for a complete financial restructuring.

Arthur Holmes, both chairman and senior benefactor at the Memorial Ground, said yesterday: "If we sell, we would have cash and be masters of our own house." Although some se-

niior Bristol officials want to retain an interest in the land and enter into some form of joint development, there is significant support for a clear sale.

Bristol are currently bottom of the Allied Dunbar Premiership and are by some distance the most financially challenged of all the top-flight sides. They lost £500,000 in the last financial year and those straitened circumstances hastened the departure of three international forwards: Mark Regan, Simon

Shaw and Martin Corry, last season's captain.

Two directors, Derek Brown and Gary White, have resigned from the board and shareholders have agreed to remove a clause in the club's constitution preventing any single investor from holding more than a 24 per cent interest. The road is clear for a Sir John Hall-style money man to buy Bristol lock, stock and barrel. Holmes and a fellow director, John Hiles, are now actively seeking the right person.

England's women have also been given a financial boost. There is £20,000 up front from Swiss Life, with a further £10,000 if they retain the World Cup next April, plus £10,000 from the food company Cibus.

- Chris Hewitt

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE

GROUP A

Borussia Dortmund v Parma (7.45)

Galatasaray v Sparta Prague (7.45)

GROUP B

Bayern v Manchester Utd (7.45)

Juventus v Koln (7.45)

GROUP C

Barcelona v Dinamo Kiev (7.45)

Newcastle v PSV Eindhoven (7.45)

GROUP D

Porto v Rosenborg Trondheim (7.45)

Olympique v Real Madrid (7.45)

GROUP E

FK Göttingen v Real Madrid (7.45)

Parma SG v Bayern Munich (7.45)

GROUP F

Levski v Sporting Lisbon (7.45)

Udinese v Monaco (7.45)

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

Midfielders v Portsmouth (7.45)

Southend v QPR (7.45)

THIRD DIVISION

Brighton v Bembridge (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION

Clydebank v Queen of the South (7.45)

FA CARSBERG VASE

FA CARSBERG VASE</

United refuse to take Feyenoord win for granted

diords
Everything is rosy in the footballing garden of Alex Ferguson. Guy Hodgson reports on how the biggest dilemma facing the Manchester United manager is which striker to leave out of tonight's Champions' League game.

A happy scene is developing on Manchester United's travels in Europe. Kosice sacked their coach just before they met the English champions last month and now Feyenoord approach tonight's match in a similarly leaderless condition. It brings to mind Napoleon's prefer-

ence for lucky rather than good generals.

Fate seems to be beaming enticingly at Alex Ferguson. He has lost his captain, Roy Keane, to a cruciate ligament injury, but that apart the season could hardly be going much more to plan. Three wins in the Champions' League, a four-point lead in the Premiership and his side, bursting with goals - the United manager must fear opening his eyes in the morning in case the whole thing is a dream.

To put his worries in perspective, the biggest headache Ferguson will have in Rotterdam tonight will be which of his goal-laden strikers he will have to omit. Compare that to Feyenoord, who had to put a profile of their 71-year-old pres-

officer in the match programme because there was no coach to write about, and you get problems on a different scale.

Like David Pleat, Aris Haan lost his job soon after the Old Trafford defeat, and tonight Feyenoord will be under the direction of Geert Meijer, who played for Birmingham City in the 1970s and who will be assisted by the former Nottingham Forest and Tottenham midfield player, Johnny Metgod.

This will be a temporary arrangement because the former Netherlands and Real Madrid coach, Leo Beenhakker, is understood to be negotiating a release from his directorship at Vitesse Arnhem - and it is his imminent arrival that concerns Ferguson.

"A new man comes in," he said, "and sometimes that provokes a response from the players. Our concentration will have to be very good. At the moment we're playing well and hopefully that confidence and form will carry over into this match. It won't be easy because although we could have scored more goals at Old Trafford, Feyenoord played some nice football," Ferguson said.

United won the home match with last season's Dutch runners-up 2-1, but they wasted many chances in the process that Ferguson berated his players for possessing the killer touch of Mary Poppins. Barnsley and Sheffield Wednesday have borne the backlash since with 13 goals, which in turn has

produced a dilemma of a different kind for the manager.

Andy Cole, the profligate in-chief against Feyenoord, has scored five times in two matches since, but his renewed confidence is not so robust to stand rejection now. So the choice of who should stand down for the fit-again Ryan Giggs would appear to rest between Ole Gunnar Solskjær, who has made most of Cole's goals, or Teddy Sheringham, whose best performances since his move from Tottenham have been in Europe.

To complicate matters, all three strikers scored twice on Saturday, but Ferguson is the last man to dwell on such trifles. "The important thing is that we pick the right team for

this match," he said, refusing to be drawn on his choice. "The result is the important thing."

If United win tonight they will have 12 points from four games in Group B and it will take a strange combination of scores to deny them a quarter-final place as one of the best two runners-up at worst. Already European perception of the team has changed from one that lost five games and was lucky to reach the semi-finals last year to another that has a realistic chance of winning the competition.

"Any player wants to do well in Europe," Ferguson replied to a Dutch journalist who wondered whether United are good enough. "It's a matter of pride, of improvement and a mark of their ambitions.

"What happened last year was a good thing because even a bad experience is good for you. Our best performance of the season so far was against Juventus, and it was because we were better aware of their strengths. That shows the players are young enough to take things in and to go even further.

"We're not taking anything for granted. We're talking there of something that is happening in May - the priority is what's happening in Rotterdam in November. I think we're sensible enough to realise we have to do a job here and worry about other things later."

Ferguson was talking from a position of strength. At the moment, the worry lines appear on managers about to meet United.

CRICKET

Lewis and Malcolm are in demand

Chris Lewis and Devon Malcolm have emerged as targets for counties searching for reinforcements for next season.

Leicestershire and Northamptonshire have taken advantage of the 1 November deadline, which allows counties to approach out-of-contract players once 14 days notice has been served.

Lewis is wanted by Leicestershire, where he played from 1987 until 1991, although Surrey officials are also hoping to negotiate a new deal.

Leicestershire's chief executive, David Collier, said: "We are in discussions with Chris and he is interested in joining us. We will be having further talks with him when he returns from New Zealand [where he is on tour with an England one-day squad]."

Malcolm is being chased by Northamptonshire and Hampshire after becoming disillusioned with events at Derbyshire this summer. He has promised to speak to the new captain Dominic Cork, currently on holiday, before assessing his options. Chairman Vic Brownell confirmed: "Devon has asked for a few more days to think about it."

Pakistan's captain Wasim Akram was named as Lancashire's new captain last night. He has already been awarded a testimonial next season. Wasim made his debut for the county in 1988.

MOTOR RACING

Muller moves into Biela's seat at Audi

Frank Biela has gone back to Germany as part of an Audi touring car shake-up which runs far deeper than merely switching their works drivers from country to country.

Biela, who won the British Touring Car Championship at his and Audi's first attempt in 1990, and finished second last season, will pilot the new, front-wheel drive Audi A4 in his home competition, with the Frenchman Yvan Muller taking the German's seat here.

"I couldn't have made a better start," said Biela, who had a short and unhappy spell with Sampdoria earlier this season. "I'm particularly pleased for Muller, because right from the start he's worked hard to help me fit. Before moving to Leicestershire, I had the chance to go back to England, but wanted to take my chance in the toughest league in the world."

Dichio, greeted with the headline "Former Mala Model Scores Goal" by the Italian press, is delighted with his move to southern Italy, and with coach Claudio Prandelli. "The result was important as we had a lot of young boys in the team."

Two goals from David Bingham - one from the penalty spot - put Dunfermline ahead against a Celtic side fielding seven first-team players.

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Dichio had predicted he would score on Saturday morning. "Now I'm hoping to score a few more," he said. "This team deserves to stay in Serie A."

– Nick Duxbury

Handicaps add to Dalglish's defiance

Injuries and suspensions have dogged Newcastle's European campaign but Simon Turnbull finds Kenny Dalglish in a positive frame of mind for tonight's match against PSV Eindhoven.

There are to be no official bonfires in Newcastle tonight. The city council has delayed them by 24 hours. The hope is that Newcastle United will be keeping the home fires burning.

Not that anyone is expecting a repeat of the pyrotechnics which lit up St James' Park the last time Newcastle played there in the Champions' League. For one thing, Faustino Asprilla, who sparked the spectacular 3-2 beating of Barcelona, will be confined to a seat in the Mihura Stand.

That is not the only handicap with which Kenny Dalglish has to contend as be plots how to bring about the downfall of the Dutch champions, PSV Eindhoven. Alan Shearer is also still on the injured list, David Batty and Robert Lee are suspended, and his defence is in apparent disarray.

There was a hint of the bunker mentality in Dalglish's pre-match press conference. "There's a defeatist attitude that seems to be hanging round the place like a bad smell," Dalglish said, "but we're going into the game in a positive frame of mind."

It is difficult not to sympathise with Dalglish's plight. He has been deprived of not just Asprilla and Shearer but of Stuart Pearce and Alessandro Pistone too.

Newcastle have, as Dalglish felt obliged to remind the critics, still made their mark in the Champions' League, beating Barcelona and drawing against Dynamo Kiev. They were rather tame 1-0 losers in Eindhoven a fortnight ago but they

did beat PSV 3-2 in the pre-season Dublin International Tournament.

That, however, was at a time when Dalglish had an embarrassment of firepower at his disposal. Even with Asprilla away on World Cup duty, Les Ferdinand and Peter Beardsley were confined to bench duty as Jon Dahl Tomasson struck up an instantly profitable striking partnership with Shearer.

The Dane was razor-sharp that night, scoring twice and setting up Newcastle's other goal for Keith Gillespie. His finishing has been blunt ever since.

He did open his Premiership account on Saturday, albeit by brushing Des Hamilton's goal-bound header with his chest.

And he will be the focal point for Newcastle's attacking again tonight, most likely with Temur Ketsbaia rather than Ian Rush in support.

At the other end, Pistone could make his long-awaited return, and Newcastle are likely to need the Italian's assured presence to deal with the threat posed by Luc Nilis, who scored against Shay Given at Lansdowne Road a week ago, and PSV's other Belgian striker, the volatile Giles de Bilde.

The Eindhoven squad suffered a jolt before they even arrived on Tyneside, when their plane was struck by a truck as it stood on the runway prior to departure.

In the 21 European ties staged at St James' Park only three visiting teams have avoided a loss: Southampton (in 1969), Bastia (in 1977) and Monaco (in March this year).

Bastia and Monaco were victorious but no continental team has drawn on Tyneside. In the absence of fireworks, parity tonight would, at least, be something never before seen at St James' Park.

Newcastle United (probable): Given, Albert, Pearce, Bremner, Asprilla, Barnes, Barton, Ketsbaia, Tomasson.

PSV Eindhoven (probable): Waterhorst, Vampeta, Stam, Faber, Numan, Petrov, Jonk, Coon, Nilis, De Bilde, Van.



Graeme Souness, the new coach of Portugal's Benfica, leads his team in a training session in Lisbon yesterday. Martin Pringle (left) and Nuno Gomes (centre) keep a respectful distance from the former Liverpool manager. Photograph: Luisa Ferreira/AP

Away goal enough for Twente

Twente Enschede have moved into the third round of the UEFA Cup thanks to the away goal rule after drawing 0-0 with Aarhus in the second leg of their second-round match yesterday.

A goal in Denmark in the first leg's 1-1 draw was enough to see the Dutch side make progress.

Allan Reiss almost broke the deadlock for Aarhus in the 35th minute, but his curling right-foot shot crashed into the bar after beating Sander Boschker, the Twente goalkeeper.

However, Twente had the best chance of the first half when Ansar Ayupov headed on a corner from the right by Ton Ien Caat, only to see Michael Nonbo clear it from the line. Aarhus, desperate for a goal, wasted their best chance in the 21st minute, when Jesper Sorensen split Twente's defence with a long pass, but Boschker beat Lars Lambæk in a race for the ball.

Toni scored the only goal to ease Braga of Portugal past Dynamo Tbilisi in their UEFA Cup second-round, second-leg game.

The Georgian club led the attack in the first half, but were unable to break through Braga's defense.

After the break, Braga went on the offensive and Toni scored in the 49th minute.

The Portuguese club wasted several other scoring opportunities in front of a crowd of around 15,000 in the National Stadium, Tbilisi.

In the first-leg game two weeks ago, Braga demolished Dynamo Tbilisi 4-0.

Celtic's Darren Jackson was back on target yesterday, just two months after undergoing brain surgery.

Jackson, making his first appearance at Parkhead since his operation, equalised for the reserves in their 2-2 draw against Dunfermline. He put Celtic level after 72 minutes when he steered home Tommy Johnson's knock-down from six yards.

Jackson had earlier shown no reservations about heading the ball when he powered an effort against the crossbar. He played for the full 90 minutes and coach Wim Jansen, watching from the stand, must have been impressed with his player's third comeback match, although Celtic's first Old Firm derby of the season with Rangers at Ibrox on Saturday may be too soon for him.

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BASKETBALL

England coach breaks his arm playing

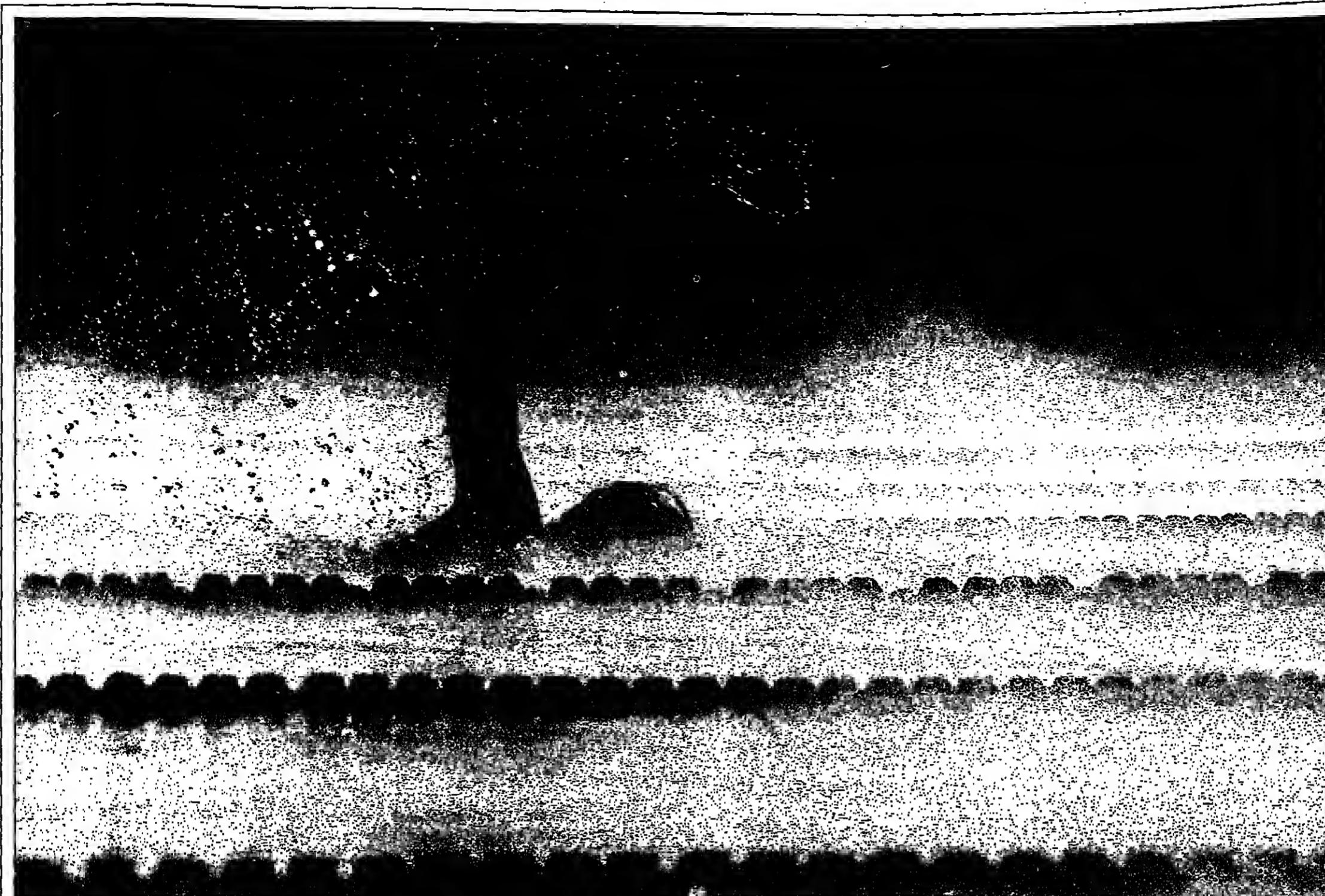
The enthusiasm of Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, to practice what he preaches has cost him a broken arm and the 46-year-old Hungarian has returned home for surgery.

Playing for City of Leeds in the local league, Nemeth adopted the correct defensive position to block an opponent's drive, but in taking the charge, crashed to the floor and fractured an elbow.

Watford Royals, bottom of the Budweiser League after losing all 12 games, hope to have new American Philip Powe for Saturday's visit to Derby.

They have also applied for a work permit for the American Cleave Lewis, who has been playing for National League Division One club Guildford.

SAUNDERS' CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP FINALS



The steam rises over a swimmer at the Steiner Aquatic Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the morning cold. The heated outdoor pool stays open until next week

Photograph: Steve Griffen/AP

Robson declines Pleat job

Bobby Robson yesterday ruled himself out of the running to replace David Pleat as Sheffield Wednesday's manager. "Although I have said I would like to come back into coaching, I have not been approached and this would not be the right timing for me," the former England manager, now Barcelona director of football, said.

Ray Harford is still believed to be the front-runner to succeed Pleat, but his chairman at West Bromwich, Ray Harford, said: "I believe Wednesday want a quick appointment and I think if they were interested we would have heard by now."

Bryan Hamilton, sacked just under two weeks ago as Northern Ireland's manager, is keen on the job. "I've got to be interested," he said. "I was very disappointed to see David lose his job. We've been good friends for a long time and I only spoke to him on Sunday morning. He seemed quite upbeat despite the pressure he was under. We talked about Wednesday's problems and the areas of concern and he felt he could put things right."

Joe Royle and the Football Association's technical director, Howard Wilkinson, are also among the favourites to succeed Pleat. Royle had no comment to make yesterday. Neither had the FA spokesman Steve Double when asked about the position of Wilkinson, the former Wednesday manager. Another contender is the Queen's Park Rangers assistant manager Bruce Rioch, who is working without a contract.

Wedsday's caretaker manager, Peter Shreeves, who has seen his side win two of their first 13 Premiership matches, was one of the less upbeat mood yesterday. "We are bottom of the league, we haven't got a manager - the only way is onwards and upwards," he said.

West Ham are to give their players a lecture following the third drink-related episode at the club this season. The latest allegations regard John Hartson, who was arrested after an incident at an Essex hotel last week.

"The manager and I will sit down and discuss this with the players," the managing director Peter Storrie said. "I would think we will be reminding players of their responsibilities, but no more than that."

Champions' League
previews, page 31

Taylor to take no further action over Under-21s

Despite allegations of drinking and bad behaviour, the England Under-21 coach, Peter Taylor, says the incidents have been blown out of all proportion. Phil Casey reports.

Peter Taylor, the England Under-21 coach, yesterday dismissed newspaper reports

alleging drunkenness among his players in Italy. Five players were banned from attending England's World Cup qualifying match in Rome on 11 October after allegations about their behaviour. However, Taylor said yesterday the matter was settled and no further action would be taken over reports surrounding the players' conduct after their European Championship qualifying victory over Italy. He added that an article in

"I've gone on record as saying as far as I'm concerned the matter has been dealt with. There was a problem I was unhappy with and the five players didn't see the senior game in Rome. As far as I'm concerned, that was sufficient punishment. It's certainly been exaggerated quite a lot as I see it."

Taylor said the incident in question was not drink-related and added: "The players' luggage should have been ready to go at 4.00 but that was ignored.

"It was something they didn't particularly want to do so I had to show a bit of strength. I've gone on record as saying it's not drink-related. I sent them back to the airport. It had nothing to do with drink. The players know I was disappointed. They have phoned me and apologised."

Taylor's unbeaten side were top of Group Two after completing the double over Italy, which saw them become the first visiting team to beat the

Italians for 12 years. But points dropped against Georgia and Poland meant they finished outside the top seven group winners and they need to win their two-leg play-off to reach the last eight.

The first leg will take place on 13 November in Crete, with the return match at Carrow Road in early December.

"To me, the winners of the groups should have qualified," Taylor said. "It's a bit disappointing that you can win a

group including Italy by seven points and still not qualify automatically. I didn't find out that was the case for definite until three days after we beat Italy so it was a bit of a downer. But we're playing Greece now and I'm pleased we've another couple of games at least."

"I saw them in January when they played Italy in a friendly and they won 1-0 that day. They have very tricky players."

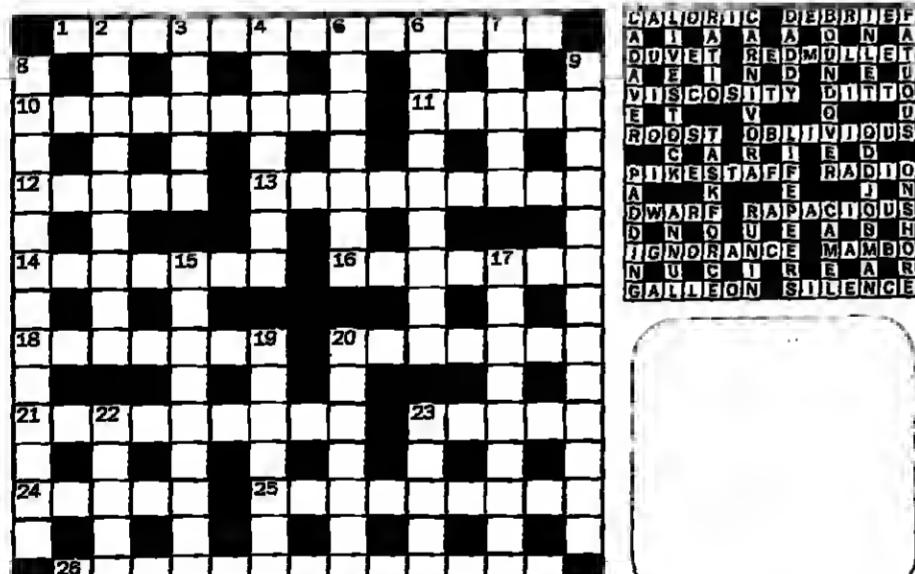
U21 squad, Sporting Digest, Page 31

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3448. Wednesday 5 November

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS
1 Settling the score? (13)
10 Tea-time's set about noon in Continental bar (9)
11 Daggers produced by Nobel industrialists early on (5)
12 Contended pair (retired musical pair) (5)
13 Local target of River Authority (9)
14 One of twin air-intakes below a bridge (7)
16 False smile shows apprentice's contract not popular (7)
18 Train that is oddly disinclined to move in this state (7)
20 ... smooth, everybody is in statio (7)

DOWN
2 Like a break, turned up in new English trousers (9)
3 Damp brings unpleasant smell in digs, initially (5)
4 No lady's coming out of church council (7)
5 Soldiers, fatigued, gave ground (7)
6 Do performers on them work to sliding-scales? (9)
7 Fidelio, for example — work taking a long time (5)
8 From April, Prudence goes straight (13)
9 Removes central strata (6-7)
15 Helping of food hitter, sometimes, in grounds? (9)
17 Sun a union paid out at one (9)
19 A large drink called for a lady's maid (7)
20 Popular scenes photographed in ventilation-shafts? (7)
22 Rings to acquire book of architectural moulding (5)
23 Pure, thin note on top (5)

Coaches' jobs may be saved

The collapse of the British Athletic Federation led yesterday to 21 staff being made redundant. However, as Mike Rowbottom reports, their jobs may yet be saved.

Eight of Britain's national coaches — including the man who guided Sally Gunnell's career, Bruce Longmuir — were made redundant yesterday in the wake of the British Athletic Federation's financial collapse.

The coaches' jobs, and those of 13 office staff throughout the regions, were cut by the administrators who have been called in to help pay off the federation's creditors.

But fresh hope emerged yesterday as the Amateur Athletic Association, which handed over many of its traditional powers when the BAF was formed in 1991, committed itself to saving the jobs.

"I don't think we've much

choice," Geoff Clarke, the AAA's treasurer, said. "We want athletics to continue and at the end of the day we are talking about grass-roots development."

The AAA, which has financial reserves of close to £2m, will discuss the predicament of the 21 employees at a management board meeting on Sunday week.

This summer, the AAA stepped in to guarantee two monthly payments of £45,000 to keep the national coaching programme going while the BAF attempted to sort out what it then believed was a cash-flow problem.

Only one of the payments was made before the BAF, with an immediate deficit of £500,000 and running costs of £130,000 per month, was obliged to call in the administrators on 14 October.

There are now just 13 BAF employees remaining, including the newly installed chief executive, David Moorcroft. They have been told to carry on reporting for work, although their situation is far from certain.

Pearce added: "These are the issues that the administrators are looking at."

Carl Johnson, mentor to

Britain's world triple jump record holder, Jonathan Edwards, is also on the list of those coaches who have been laid off.

The others are the North West coach Peter Warden, David Lease in the West, and the North East's Brad McStravick, as well as Brian Hall, Andy Vince and Phil Banning — national coaches of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales respectively.

A BAF spokeswoman, Jayne Pearce, said: "We are hoping that the coaches will be able to carry on with their roles in some shape or form, perhaps with funding from the regions. But we are not able to fund them. It is obviously a very sad day for everyone at the BAF."

The BAF has not ruled out selling its premises — valued at about £450,000 — in a bid to avert bankruptcy, while the immediate future of domestic showpiece events remains unclear.

Pearce added: "These are the issues that the administrators are looking at."

Prospect of a new dawn, page 30

Board to check 'Good and Evil' poster for bad taste

Boxing officials want to see the "Good and Evil" poster advertising Herol Graham's clash with the "Panzamanian Devil" Vinnie Pazienza at the Wembley Arena on 6 December.

John Morris, secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said: "I have not had an opportunity to see it,

but it sounds like an exercise in bad taste."

The poster, headlined "The Taming of the Devil", shows the former world champion Pazienza emerging from hell with the severed heads of two women in each hand dripping blood, and running through fire.

Graham, the World

Boxing Council international super-middleweight holder, is naked, depicted as the angel, complete with halo floating through the clouds.

The promoter, Frank Maloney, cited economics, saying: "I'm investing £500,000 in this show. If the Board want to subsidise me, then I'll take it down."

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